

Thousands demand Ryzhkov resign

MOSCOW (R) — Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched through Moscow Sunday to demand the resignation of the Soviet government. It looked like being one of the largest-ever unofficial demonstrations in the Soviet capital since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. Hundreds of people lined the route despite steady drizzle to express support for the marchers, many of whom waved pro-revolutionary blue, red and white Russian banners. Moscow's radical mayor, Gavril Popov, said the demonstrators wanted Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov to step down and make way for fast economic reform. "Down with Ryzhkov," "down with the Ryzhkov government," read hundreds of home-made slogans waved by the marchers. The march comes on the eve of a parliamentary debate on economic reform at which Ryzhkov, head of government for the past five years, is presenting a programme for a measured transfer to a market system.

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Delegates from various Arab countries, including Palestinian leader Nayef Hawatme (in light suit), attend Sunday's sessions of an Arab conference on the Gulf crisis (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan).

Arab conference decides to defy Iraq blockade

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting of Arab political parties and popular organisations has decided to send a shipload of food supplies and medicine, with a symbolic participation of Arab women and children to Iraq as one step to challenge the embargo against Iraq.

Organisers of the meeting, which opened here Saturday, told the Jordan Times that the ship would depart from one of the Maghreb states to an Iraqi port defying a U.S.-led naval blockade against Iraq. The idea was originally presented by a number of political parties from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya, which are functioning as one bloc at the conference.

During Sunday's session the organisers read out an appeal by the unified leadership of the intifada to Libya and Algeria to cut off oil supplies to the West and support Baghdad in its confrontation with the West.

"Struggle is the only way to defeat the fleets and armies; so let us direct all of our efforts to

break the blockade against Iraq," said the intifada leadership's call, which was welcomed with loud applause.

Representatives of more than 120 political parties and organisations from nine Arab countries discussed means to counter the Western military build-up in the Gulf for the second consecutive day.

The "Conference of Arab Popular Movements Against Western Military Intervention (and) in Solidarity with Iraq" is organised by the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), a predominantly leftist coalition.

The three-day conference, which is scheduled to conclude Monday, has also decided to form a committee to follow up the implementation of its recommendations and to maintain coordination among Arab political parties and popular organisations.

"Keeping up coordination is relevant for the formation of a unified front against Western intervention and in support of Iraq," Issam Shabi from Tunisia

told the Jordan Times.

The final communiqué was expected to demand an immediate withdrawal of U.S.-led foreign troops from the Gulf and the implementation of all United Nations resolutions pertaining to both the Gulf crisis and the Middle East conflict.

According to JANDA officials, the conference will announce a series of activities across the Arab World on a regular basis to broaden and activate opposition to the Western military presence in the Gulf. For example, they said, the committee will be set up by the conference will call for a certain popular function — such as demonstrations, fund-raising campaigns and strikes — on the 6th of each month, marking the date in August when Western troops arrived in Saudi Arabia.

The drafting committee, which met twice Sunday and expected to meet again Monday morning, was also considering a call on Arab workers to boycott the handling of American shipments to the Arab World on certain

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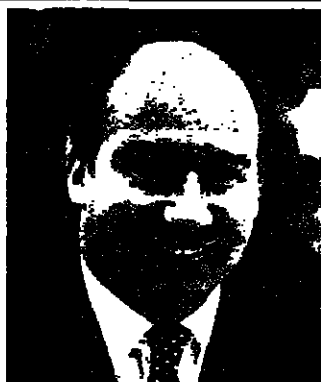
Aga Khan arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the personal representative of the United Nations secretary general for humanitarian assistance related to Gulf crisis and in particular the problems of Third World nationals, arrived in Amman Sunday evening on a four-day visit to Jordan to assess the food needs of foreigners in Jordan, Iraq and Kuwait.

Aga Khan said in a press statement upon arrival that he would inspect the conditions of the evacuees in Jordan, "since the plight of the evacuees is a humanitarian problem that calls for immediate measures to ensure their quick return to their countries."

Aga Khan called on all the U.N. agencies and organisations to do their utmost to ensure the repatriation of the evacuees.

Aga Khan said the U.N. "cannot ignore the problems of Jordan resulting from the presence of these large numbers of evacuees on its land." He said



Sadruddin Aga Khan

U.N. agencies and organisations concerned in development were discussing the issue.

Aga Khan lauded Jordan's efforts aimed at offering all possible facilities to the evacuees and for allowing them to pass through its land. He said as a U.N. representative he is committed to abide by all U.N. Security Council resolutions, taking into account that human considerations come in the first place.

Aga Khan was received at the airport by the director of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's office, Michel Hamarneh, Prince Hassan's political advisor Hussein Touga and the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan, Dr. Ali Atiq.

King, Ben Bella discuss Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein discussed the Gulf crisis with former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella who arrived in Amman from Baghdad Sunday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King briefed Ben Bella on Jordan's efforts to find a political solution to the problem within an Arab framework.

Petra quoted Ben Bella as saying King Hussein should "continue his efforts with Arab leaders to keep the Gulf crisis within an Arab context and help curb an escalation caused by foreign intervention."

The meeting at the Royal Court was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. King Hussein had wel-

comed Ben Bella Friday upon his arrival in Amman on his way to Baghdad.

Ben Bella spent two days in Baghdad, during which he secured Iraq's agreement to free old and sick French nationals.

The Iraqi News Agency said earlier he had criticised the build-up of Western forces against Iraq and affirmed "his strong belief in Iraq's victory against imperialist and Zionist threats."

Ben Bella, who lives in exile in Switzerland, is planning to return to Algeria later this month for a long-promised political comeback after 14 years in prison and nine in exile.

He was a key figure in the revolution against French rule in Algeria and became president af-

ter independence, but was ousted in a 1965 military coup.

King meets Moroccan envoy

King Hussein also met on Sunday with Ahmad Ben Sudeh, the political adviser of King Hassan of Morocco. The envoy delivered to King Hussein a message from the Moroccan monarch dealing with the Gulf crisis and current efforts to find an Arab solution, Petra said.

The message also was a follow-up to the discussions King Hussein had with King Hassan during a North African tour he made late last month. The meeting at the Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid and the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

Iraq broadcasts Bush's message, then refutes it

Combined agency despatches

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush told Iraqis in a television broadcast Sunday they stand "on the brink of war" because of the invasion of Kuwait, and Iraqi television followed up with a scathing response from the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein.

Bush, in a taped message from the White House, said, "Iraq stands isolated and alone."

"Saddam Hussein tells you that this crisis is a struggle between Iraq and America. In fact, it is Iraq against the world," said Bush, standing in front of his desk with the American flag behind him.

Iraqi television broadcast the Bush message Sunday evening around 7 p.m. local time (1500 GMT). At the White House, spokesman Sean Walsh said the U.S. embassy in Iraq said the broadcast was shown in its entirety.

"Iraq finds itself on the brink of war," Bush said.

But he said, "War is not inevitable. It is still possible to bring this crisis to a peaceful end."

Bush pulled a paper from his pocket and quoted the Iraqi president's words in a Nov. 28, 1988.

Habash challenges Bush to open negotiations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian leader George Habash Sunday rejected the assertions U.S. President George Bush made in a message broadcast on Iraqi Television and challenged Bush to open negotiations for comprehensive peace in the Middle East, starting with the implementation of the various United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian problem and Lebanon and then the Gulf crisis.

"I have listened to Mr. Bush's speech," Habash said in a statement to the Jordan Times. "It will not convince anybody, but everyone will ask a big question: Where is international legitimacy in the Palestinian problem and the South Lebanon question?"

"If Mr. Bush is sincere, then let us sit down at a table and discuss the implementation of all United Nations resolutions; on the Palestinian problem, on South Lebanon and on the Gulf crisis," Habash said.

Mr. Bush may be able to deceive the American people," he said, "but he cannot deceive the Arabs."

speech saying "an Arab country does not have the right to occupy another Arab country."

If Iraq invaded another Arab state "we would want Arabs to send their armies to put things right. If Iraq should become intoxicated by its power and move to overwhelm another Arab state, the Arabs would be right to deploy their armies to check it," Bush said.

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities in anti-American demonstrations even as Bush's brief address to Iraqis started.

Bush said he wanted to explain to the Iraqi people why the international community had responded with such "determination."

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Top Iranian team in Iraq

Combined agency despatches

A SENIOR IRANIAN delegation arrived in Baghdad Sunday to patch up relations following the 1980-88 Gulf war amid signs of a new alliance spurred by hostility towards America that would help Iraq puncture U.N. sanctions.

The Iranian group was led by Deputy Foreign Minister for International Relations Manushahr Mutaqi, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

He said he will discuss a prisoner-of-war (PoWs) exchange, border issues and reopening embassies in each other's capitals, the agency said.

The Iranian visit follows last Sunday's ground-breaking visit to Tehran by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

A well-informed Iranian source said Iran agreed to ship consignments of food and medicine to Iraq as "humanitarian aid" in return for 200,000 barrels of free refined oil a day.

The Tehran Times daily, which is close to the Iranian government, denied that Wednesday. But Western and Arab oil experts have said a deal was made.

The U.N. embargo is reportedly strangling Iraq's economy and food supply, and Iraq has offered free oil to Third World countries to break the embargo.

The budding Iran-Iraq alliance, however expedient, between the erstwhile foes comes as Iran is reaping many benefits from the crisis triggered by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Tehran is making billions of dollars from oil prices pushed up when oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait were blocked by the U.N. embargo.

Iraq accepted Tehran's terms

for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf war in a move widely seen as a bid to free Iraqi forces to face a massive buildup of U.S. and other troops in Saudi Arabia.

The Tehran Times said Saturday Mutaqi's trip would also prepare for a visit to Baghdad by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

The two countries have started releasing PoWs and Baghdad has pulled its troops out of pockets of Iranian territory.

While keeping quiet during the first weeks of the Gulf confrontation, Iran has become increasingly vocal in its attacks on the U.S. presence in the Gulf.

"By nature, the presence of the United States in any part of the world will automatically create tension," Tehran's radical Abrar daily said Sunday.

"The U.S. presence in Islamic lands will bring nothing for Muslims but corruption and destruction."

In Tehran, 168 of the 270 members of Iran's Majlis, or parliament, Sunday signed a document supporting Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's call last week for a holy war against the United States. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Rafsanjani said Sunday that American statements about setting up a security system and the permanent stationing of U.S. forces in the Gulf was "in no way acceptable," IRNA reported.

Recent events have bolstered Rafsanjani's moves to rebuild bridges with the West, despite radical opposition at home.

The European Community last week began negotiations with

(Continued on page 6)

Baghdad rejects U.N. curb on food

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq Sunday formally rejected as unjust and humiliating a U.N. Security Council resolution allowing food to be distributed under outside supervision to foreigners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), also said it would not accept an envoy appointed by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to oversee the operation.

A cargo ship with 11,000 tons of food left India Sunday with U.N. permission to break the embargo against Iraq and bring relief supplies to 120,000 Indians stranded in Kuwait. A dozen Indian Red Cross workers were aboard the vessel to help distribute the food.

The Security Council, in voting late Thursday to allow humanitarian food supplies through its blockade of Iraq and Kuwait, said distribution of the food must be monitored by the U.N. or humanitarian agencies like the Red Cross.

The decision by the 15-nation body was seen as clearing the way for India to send its cargo ship. The Vishwa Siddhi set sail from the port of Cochin Sunday and was expected to arrive at the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr in about five days.

"The Iraqi people and government must reject dealing with the latest humiliating and unjust resolution... the sending of food supplies to certain people should be normal and free or it will not be," the Iraqi statement said.

Regarding Perez de Cuellar's appointment of Sadruddin Aga Khan as personal representative

(Continued on page 6)

Islamic leaders launch initiative

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency despatches

AMMAN — Leaders of Islamic movements from 10 Arab and Asian countries Sunday confirmed that they were launching a political offensive aimed at preventing a war in the Gulf. They also announced that a delegation left Amman for Saudi Arabia Sunday with an initiative which calls for the replacement of all Western forces in Saudi Arabia with Arab and Islamic troops.

Addressing a press conference early Sunday, Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifeh, spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, announced the initiative.

"Our main goal is to avert a devastating war," he said. He did not say whether the delegation had any fresh proposals but called for the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict to be solved together.

Judge Hussein Ahmad from Pakistan also addressed the press conference, outlining the objectives of the new offensive.

The offensive will be guided by Islamic principles and faith, and will seek to end conflicts among Muslim nations.

Khalifeh and his colleagues stressed at the press conference that the Islamic groups will emphasise the principle that a nation's wealth is for all Muslims and should be dispensed with in accordance with the Islamic rules and for the common good, and that wealth should be fairly and equitably shared among Muslims to ensure development.

They said that holy war is required whenever there is need

there will be resistance all over the Muslim World against their presence and ultimately they have to leave," he said.

Khalifeh said Egypt, which Sunday pledged 15,000 more troops to the Gulf, had barred seven representatives of its Islamic movements from attending the Amman meeting.

The delegation planned to meet Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and members of Kuwait's toppled government before going on to Baghdad and Tehran.

Tourabi, flanked by Khalifeh and Rashid Ghannouchi, head of Tunisia's Islamic Renaissance Movement, said the delegation wanted Arabs to solve the Gulf crisis.

"We shall focus on an Arab Islamic solution," he said.

He did not say whether the delegation had any fresh proposals but called for the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict to be solved together.

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Iraq says U.N. resolution on embassies based on lies

Italy expels Iraqi diplomats; Baghdad allows old, ailing Frenchmen to leave

Combined agency despatches

IRAQ DENOUNCED a U.N. Security Council resolution early Friday condemning Baghdad for alleged attacks on diplomatic missions in Kuwait, saying the action was based on a lie.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the resolution was part of a vicious campaign against Iraq by the United States and its allies.

Iraq Saturday denied its troops had stormed a French embassy residence in Kuwait and other Western diplomatic premises.

"The Security Council paid no attention to this fact because the United States and its allies... had previously decided the decision they agreed. They were not prepared to look at the facts," INA said.

"The Security Council decision... comes in the context of an aggressive and vicious campaign led by the United States and its allies in the council against Iraq," the spokesman said.

"Those who invent lies in order to escalate the situation will have to bear the responsibility of their actions," he added.

The statement repeated Saturday's denial that its troops had taken diplomats from missions in Kuwait.

It said that a French diplomat was found at the home of a woman member of Kuwait's ousted Al Sabah ruling family and was escorted to the French embassy when his identity was established.

The urgent council session was summoned by France, joined later by Canada, after Western countries claimed Iraqi troops on

Friday forced their way into the diplomatic or consular premises of both countries, as well as those of Belgium and the Netherlands.

They said the Iraqis "looted" the French embassy residence and took away four French nationals, including a military attaché. Only the attaché was later released.

The latest resolution is the seventh directed against Iraq since its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

It demands the immediate release of the foreigners abducted during the embassy raids as well as others seized earlier who were freed by the council previously demanded.

Italy Sunday expelled several Iraqi embassy employees and limited the movement of others in retribution for the alleged raids. The Italian Foreign Ministry,

in a communique, said that all military officials in the military attaché's office at the Iraqi embassy in Rome were given 10 days to leave the country.

The other diplomats at the mission were forbidden to go more than 30 kilometres from the centre of Rome without permission, the statement said. It said the limits were effective immediately.

The action came a day after France expelled dozens of Iraqi diplomats and civilians.

Italy, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Community, has kept its mission in Kuwait open despite orders from Iraq to close all embassies there.

Iraq has condemned the French decision.

An official spokesman said the French government "shoulders full responsibility for any reaction

this intentional escalation of the situation will lead to."

He said Paris was spreading these allegations to silence domestic opposition to its "aggressive and colonialist policy."

INA also reported that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will allow elderly and ailing Frenchmen banned from travelling out of Kuwait and Iraq to leave Monday.

The decision was in response to a plea from former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, who met the Iraqi leader Saturday in Baghdad, INA reported.

It quoted the Iraqi leader as saying he hoped his decision "would provide the fair-minded French people with the opportunity to reconsider their actions away from American and Zionist pressures."

U.S. wins \$20 billion more aid for Gulf crisis

BONN (R) — Secretary of State James Baker has won a further \$20 billion worth of support from U.S. allies in the Gulf crisis after a nine-nation tour of the Middle East, the Soviet Union and Western Europe.

"It's been a good week," a beaming Baker said Saturday after his 11-day shuttle that ended with West Germany pledging 3.3 billion marks (\$2 billion) in financial and material aid.

"The United Kingdom is now sending troops, France is sending troops and Italy is sending Tornado aircraft to the Gulf," he said in Bonn. "I think the trip has been successful in pointing out the isolation of Iraq."

He told a news conference that he still thought the Gulf crisis could be settled peacefully and that the United States had set no deadline by which U.N. sanctions must work before Washington would resort to force.

"I personally feel that events are moving in the right direction" for a political solution.

He said recent new commitments of assistance to the Gulf efforts now totalled \$20 billion until the end of 1990.

This included \$12 billion from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the

United Arab Emirates, \$2 billion from West Germany and \$4 billion from Japan.

In addition, France said Saturday it was sending ground forces and tanks to Saudi Arabia to support frontline U.S. troops in the kingdom.

Earlier in Rome, Baker backed a call by Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti to extend U.N. sanctions to countries still trading with Iraq. Andreotti told Baker: "To enforce the embargo completely, one should think of imposing economic sanctions also against those countries which violate it."

The United States had previously complained that Bonn had done little to support the international effort against Iraq. "As Germany unifies, its international responsibility becomes greater," Baker said.

Kohl has repeatedly said he wanted to do more but was handcuffed by a constitution that forbids the country from sending its forces outside the NATO area, and by the immense costs Bonn will have to bear for German unification.

However, on Saturday Kohl pledged a figure which Baker said went "beyond what we have

already discussed."

"With this contribution, West Germany is trying to support all those who are involved in the crisis in the Gulf," Kohl told reporters. He said the aid would include help to the United States and frontline Middle Eastern countries hurt by the embargo against Iraq.

Of the 3.3 billion marks, 1.6 billion (\$1 billion) will be for the United States, with one billion marks (\$660 million) set aside for equipment such as radios, generators and water tanks. Bonn will also provide air and sea transport and lend U.S. forces a total of 60 tanks specially designed to detect chemical weapons.

In addition, Egypt will receive 975 million marks (\$620 million) in food and development aid, Jordan \$200 million marks (\$130 million) and Turkey 110 million marks (\$70 million), plus an unspecified amount of military aid as a fellow member of the NATO Western Alliance.

Of the remaining West German aid, Kohl said 420 million marks (\$260 million) was earmarked as Bonn's contribution to European Community support.

Indian food ship sails for Gulf

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian cargo ship carrying food for Indians stranded in the Gulf set sail Sunday watched by nearly 500 cheering and waving people, officials said.

A spokesman for Cochin port in India's southern state of Kerala said the ship would arrive in five days at Umm Qasr, near the southern Iraqi port of Basra.

It will be the first shipment allowed through the naval blockade enforcing stringent United Nations sanctions against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2.

India won U.N. permission to send the ship in the face of strong opposition from the United States and Britain, both permanent members of the Security Council.

In imposing sanctions on Iraq the council allowed food to be sent only for humanitarian purposes.

Washington had said humanitarian supplies were not yet necessary, but changed its mind

under strong pressure from India, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, all of which have large numbers of people trapped.

"We hope everything goes well," the Cochin Port spokesman told Reuters by telephone as the 12,972 tonne Vishva Siddhi sailed from the port's wharf.

The ship sailed a day later than planned to enable dockers to load more supplies. It carried 9,280 tonnes of rice, 100 tonnes of sugar, 50 tonnes of wheat and other food items like salt, pickles and tea.

"The ship could not take more than we wanted to load up to 10,000 tonnes of rice," the spokesman said.

The ship also carried 1,200 tonnes of medicine and an 11-member team from the Indian Red Cross Society, including two doctors and two nurses.

The food was supplied by the Kerala government. Most of the 125,000 Indians still stranded in Kuwait are from Kerala. Nearly

40,000 Indians have come home so far.

The port spokesman said the cargo ship could also pick up stranded Indians on its way back.

A foreign ministry spokesman in New Delhi said on Friday the food would be distributed to any hungry foreigner, not just Indians.

Senior Indian officials described the voyage of the Vishva Siddhi as a test case for all concerned.

The Security Council insisted the Indian food be distributed under the eyes of humanitarian organisations.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Red Cross team accompanying the Food would work out a method to distribute it consistent with Security Council rules.

Once senior officials said if the Vishva Siddhi operation went well, India might ask the Security Council for permission to send smaller shipments of 4,000-5,000 tonnes of food.

Egypt answers U.S. call for larger presence in S. Arabia

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will send 15,000 more troops backed by tanks and other armour to Saudi Arabia in response to a U.S. call for a stronger Arab presence in the multinational force in the Gulf, defence sources said Sunday.

Egypt already has 5,000 troops in the kingdom as part of a force mandated by the Arab League that includes 4,000 Syrian troops and 1,200 Moroccan soldiers.

The airlift of Egyptian mechanised, armoured and infantry soldiers is expected to start Monday and would take several days. Their gear — tanks, armoured personnel carriers and Egyptian integrated air defence systems — is on its way by sea to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, the sources said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker asked for a more substantial Arab military commitment during talks in Egypt with President Hosni Mubarak earlier this month.

He made the same request of Syria during a usual visit to Damascus for talks with Presi-

dent Hafez Al Assad. Diplomats said Assad promised to send as many as 11,000 more soldiers and 300 tanks to Saudi Arabia.

Baker, diplomats say, has promised handsome financial aid for states taking part in the drive to force Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait's toppled government, West Germany, Japan and Italy pledged a total of 20 billion in aid to finance operation "Desert Shield" and help the economies of states worst affected by the Gulf crisis.

Egypt's commitment to the "security" of Gulf Arab states started last month with the transfer of some 5,000 crack ranger troops and paratroops to the kingdom while other experts, forces and hardware were sent to the United Arab Emirates.

"It is a matter of principle not quantity," a Foreign Ministry source said of Egypt's involvement.

Defence sources said a small contingent of Egyptian experts and fighting men was also de-

ployed in Bahrain and Qatar.

Mubarak, who has received several West European defence ministers in the past few days, has refused to disclose the number of Egyptian troops participating in the U.S.-led effort but said Cairo would contribute as much as it could.

Egypt, Washington's closest and strongest Arab ally, has some 448,000 men on active duty and since its 1979 treaty with Israel, has been holding routine desert and naval manoeuvres with the U.S. and other Western armies.

Washington has more than 100,000 troops in Saudi Arabia and about 35,000 aboard ships in and around the Gulf.

It is not known if Morocco, the only other Arab state to contribute to the multinational force in the Gulf, plans to boost its presence in the Gulf.

Egypt, which emerged as the leader of Arab states opposed to Iraq, came under attack by Arab states opposed to the deployment of foreign troops in the region which has split the 21-member Arab League.

Algerian fundamentalists get into Gulf crisis with political hopes

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's Muslim fundamentalists have made their international diplomatic debut with a long-shot bid to solve the Gulf crisis that could boost election prospects at home.

Three months after sweeping local elections, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) is cutting its diplomatic teeth on what President Abdelkader Madani calls the "crisis of the century."

The only aspiring peacemaker to have shuttled back and forth between King Fahd's summer palace in Jeddah and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's Baghdad headquarters, Madani has yet to announce significant concrete results.

But at home the mission, due to resume shortly, projects the FIS as a party able to tackle major world crises and seize the initiative from the battered and divided ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

"A few months from the elections, the FIS has shown its ability and its pretension to boost itself to the level of state problems," wrote the FLN daily Al-Moudjahid Saturday.

Like the Algerian government the FIS has sought to steer a middle ground by criticising both Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the deployment of U.S. and Western forces in the Gulf.

This balancing act would seek to generate goodwill in both Riyadh and Baghdad without losing Algerian public opinion which is overwhelmingly pro-Iraqi, diplomats said.

"The FIS does not want to burn its bridges with the Saudis like the Palestine Liberation Organisation did," said one Arab diplomat. "As mediators they can take a relatively balanced position without losing public support."

Both Saudi Arabia and Iraq have an interest in cooperating

with a party that won 4.3 million votes in the June local elections and could take power next year in the Arab World's second most populous state after Egypt.

Iraq wants the support of fundamentalist groups throughout the Arab World for its declared holy war against the West and pro-Western Arab regimes, while King Fahd may hope to reverse Saudi Arabia's negative public image in Algeria.

Although Riyadh has given Algeria \$1.5 billion in soft loans and grants since 1980, Algerians bitterly resent Saudi wealth and many say the Gulf states undermined the economy through high oil production that undercut world prices.

Popular sentiment overwhelmingly opposes the kingdom's recourse to foreign military protection. Ali Benhadj, the fiery young FIS preacher who accompanied Madani, told worshippers last Friday Muslims, not infidels, should defend the holy places.

"We must defend (the people of the Gulf) and take the place of the American prostitutes," he said.

"The state should take the initiative to open training camps in every town, in the desert, in the forests where youth can be trained in the use of arms because the situation in the Gulf could degenerate at any moment."

But Benhadj would not explicitly endorse Iraq's call for a holy war which he said required more study. Madani said Kuwaitis made the right to "liberate" their country.

Algeria has a long tradition of diplomatic trouble-shooting and Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali made his own visit to Baghdad early in the crisis. But he apparently concluded conditions were not ripe for an official Algerian initiative.

Israeli captain kills soldier

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An army captain accidentally shot dead his sergeant after they chased after Palestinian stone-throwers, the army said Sunday.

A spokesman said the victim was "fatally shot Saturday morning by another officer who was on patrol" in Kfar Malek, a village near the West Bank city of Ramallah. He declined to elaborate.

Israeli newspapers said the soldiers, armoured corps reservists, had returned to their jeeps after failing to catch youths who had hurled stones at them in Kfar Malek, a village of 2,000 where anti-Israeli violence is commonplace.

The Maariv daily said the commander, a captain, had unloaded his U.S.-made M-16 rifle, but inadvertently left a bullet in the chamber which discharged, hitting the soldier in the chest.

An army helicopter brought the soldier to a hospital in Jerusalem where he was pronounced dead, the Haaretz daily said. He was married with three children.

The captain was being questioned by military police, Maariv said.

Three Palestinians were reportedly wounded Sunday, one seriously, in attacks on alleged collaborators with Israel.

In Hureit refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, masked assailants shot a father and son, Palestinian reports said.

They said Khalil Abu Odeh, 53, was treated at a Gaza hospital for a bullet wound in the arm, while his son Atef, 30, was hit in the neck by two bullets and taken to a hospital near Tel Aviv.

Baker woos Syria, says policy not amoral

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

ROME — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, while reaching out to Syria as an unlikely ally in the Gulf crisis, has pledged that U.S. foreign policy will not be amoral.

This unusual commitment, made at a news conference in the Syrian capital Damascus Friday, underscores the risk of Washington's overture to President Hafez Al Assad.

It also demonstrates Baker's political skill at acting to defuse what could be a contentious domestic issue for himself and President George Bush if they were seen as becoming too cosy with the Syrian leader.

Assad has a reputation as a ruthless, authoritarian leader. He is also an avowed adversary of Israel, Washington's closest Middle East ally.

His country has been placed on the U.S. list of countries sponsoring "terrorism" and a headline Palestinian group implicated in the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing over Scotland that killed 280 people is based in Damascus.

Nevertheless, as the Bush administration rallied world support for sanctions after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, few prizes were bigger than Syria — Iraq's bitter enemy.

Syria has offered troops and tanks to the U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf, a move Baker called significant.

"I don't think anything heightens more the isolation of Saddam Hussein in the Arab World than Syrian involvement," he said.

But for both the United States and Syria their alliance may only be a marriage of political convenience.

Baker, however, is beginning to talk about the future and a regional structure that could help keep the peace in the Middle East once Iraq is "tamed."

He discussed this with Assad during talks lasting more than four hours at the presidential palace and sees Syria playing a role.

Some Western diplomats in the Middle East are more sceptical of

Assad's motives and his long-term commitment to the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition.

Ahead of his talks with Assad — the first by a U.S. secretary of state in more than two years — Baker seemed unprepared to explain why the United States was going out of its way to enlist a government so seemingly at odds with its own values.

But Friday, as he stood shoulder to shoulder with Syria's foreign minister at the news conference — under a portrait of Assad and with more than a dozen Syrian secret police in attendance — he made his position clear.

"We have a common goal. We share a common purpose with respect to the problems in the Gulf," Baker said.

"But we make no secret about the fact that there are still problems revolving around this question of terrorism and we must find a way to resolve those problems," before U.S.-Syrian ties can be close, he said.

"I have said before that our policy cannot and never will be amoral," he added.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said his government has condemned terrorism and believes that any violent act outside the occupied territories in Israel fits that definition.

As for the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, he argued that no one had offered hard evidence linking the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command to the incident.

Once proof is produced, Syria will bring the guilty parties to justice, Sharaa promised. But he complained that the Western media was exaggerating the terrorism issue in the region.

Syria's aversion to the press was strongly in evidence on Friday. Assad's aides refused to allow journalists travelling with Baker to witness the opening of their talks, although a Western television camera was permitted to shoot video — without sound — apparently for the first time.

And at the airport news conference more than a dozen secret police formed a human phalanx in front of reporters and photographers.

Pakistan to send more 'troops for oil'

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan will send 3,000 more troops to Saudi Arabia shortly, bringing its contingent there to the promised strength of 5,000 men, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

"The troops will leave in a few days," he said.

The spokesman said the second batch of soldiers would bring to full strength the army brigade pledged by Pakistan to "protect" Islam's holy places and to "defend" the Saudi territory.

Pakistan sent 2,000 combat troops, known as "soldiers of Islam" to Saudi Arabia Sept. 1 and 2.

The spokesman said the departure of the remaining 3,000 had been delayed by transport difficulties.

There were already about 1,000 Pakistani military advisers and technicians on secondment to Saudi Arabia before the Gulf crisis erupted in August with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Diplomatic sources said Saudi Arabia was pressing Pakistan to boost its military contingent still further and Islamabad was likely to agree as part of a "troops-for-oil" deal.

The foreign ministry spokesman did not confirm this, but he said Pakistan's caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi discussed Pakistan's troop presence in Saudi Arabia during talks with King Fahd in Jeddah Friday.

Jatoi visited Saudi Arabia during a four-day whirlwind tour of Gulf states. Diplomatic sources said a Pakistani delegation held separate talks with Saudi officials on Pakistan's oil requirements during his visit to Jeddah.

The sources said Pakistan was likely to send a second brigade of 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia, but this would depend on the border situation with India in Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have been quarrelling over ownership of the Himalayan territory since independence in 1947. Tensions have risen this year due to a revolt against rule from New Delhi in the Indian sector of Kashmir.

Pakistan faces heavy economic losses as a result of the Gulf crisis. Bankers say the country's oil bill could rise by two thirds to \$2 billion in the 1990/91 July-June financial year, while at the same time remittances from migrant workers in Iraq and Kuwait will fall sharply.

Israel protests U.S.-Saudi arms deal

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. plans to sell Saudi Arabia arms worth up to \$20 billion may tip the Middle East balance of power in favour of Arab states, a senior Israeli official said.

"This is a staggering amount of weapons and money... that kind of weapons and the quantities could gravely affect the Middle East balance of power," said Avi Pazner, adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

He added: "We would have to check the accuracy of the report... because it appears an enormous amount of sophisticated weaponry."

U.S. administration officials said Friday Washington planned to sell Saudi Arabia fighter planes, tanks, missiles and other arms.

It would be the biggest U.S. peacetime arms deal with any country and officials said Israel would be offered weapons to "cushion the shock."

Saud says time right to resume ties with Moscow

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said in remarks published Sunday that the Soviet Union's firm stand against Iraq in the Gulf crisis made the timing right for a resumption of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Riyadh.

The interview with Prince Saud Al Faisal in Okaz newspaper came amid wide expectations that the Saudi foreign minister would travel to Moscow soon to sign an accord establishing full diplomatic ties between the kingdom and the Soviet Union.

"In view of the positive role played by the Soviet Union in ensuring security and stability in the world in general and the Middle East in particular, I believe the time is now opportune more than ever to set up active and effective ties between the two countries," he said.

"Such ties will serve the causes of justice, peace and security and the vital interests of both states," he added.

He said Saudi Arabia "appreciates the Soviet Union's participation in backing the world trend towards comprehensive development."

The Helsinki superpower summit had "affirmed the importance of the Soviet role in the service of peace and security in the region and facing dangers and challenges with a

sense of responsibility," Prince Saud said, according to Okaz.

He praised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as "a new type of leader aspiring to achieve prosperity in this world, an aim which we also share."

Prince Saud said the kingdom was going ahead with its firm policy of establishing "balanced relations with all countries of the world out of its belief that the world has become a small village dominated by joint interests."

Relations between the Soviet Union and pro-Western Saudi Arabia have been frozen since 1939. But they warmed up after Gorbachev pulled out his forces from Afghanistan early in 1989.

There are about 50 million Muslims in the Soviet Union. Saudi Arabia earlier this year flew more than one million copies of the Koran as gifts for Soviet Muslims.

Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, paid a visit to Saudi Arabia in March and had talks with Prince Saud.

In a television interview, Polyakov assured the Saudis that Muslims in the Soviet Union enjoyed political, religious and economic freedom.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Kuran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 News summary
16:10 Local programme
16:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabesques
21:00 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:10 Weekly Sport magazine
19:20 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:30 Mystery movie: "Bl. Stinker"

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fajr
06:15 (Sunrise) Duha
12:30 Asr
16:00 Maghrib
18:45 Evening
20:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 7117-80
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632705
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624901
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625903, Tel. 626543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771131
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775291
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771251
Armenian International Church Tel. 605326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 911295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815017, 650102

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly mod-

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Buhra 625778
Dr. Yusef Samir 615628
Dr. George Saboun 775751
Dr. Hisham Kar'an 702266
Firas pharmacy 601912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 627365
Naimah pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 670730
Yacoub pharmacy 640455
Shmeissat pharmacy 637001

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 801228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 804072
Traffic Police 806300
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605000
Price Complaints 601176
Water and Sewerage 807467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 62101
Repairs 62101
Abdab Telephone Repairs 661101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husein Medical Centre 81381332
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 6423816
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 626262
Mafkas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeissat 6641714
Shmeissat Hospital 660131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mashar Hospital 6672770
The Islamic, Abdab 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdab 6641646
Hakim, Al-Mahayesi 7710173
Al-Bakir, J. Ashrafieh 7511120
Army, Marka 80161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09910771
Bn Sura Hospital 09986732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532055, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
18:00 Damascus (RU)
18:15 Riyadh (RU)
18:30 Dhahran (RU)
18:30 Cairo (RU)
18:30 Samsa, Jeddah (RU)
18:30 Larous (RU)
18:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)
18:45 Cairo (RU)
18:45 Ankara, Istanbul (RU)
19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RU)
19:15 London (RU)
RJ Flights (Terminal 2)
18:00 Cairo (RU)
18:30 New York, Montreal (RU)
18:30 Frankfurt (RU)
18:30 Moscow (RU)
18:30 Istanbul (RU)
18:30 Bahrain, Doha (RU)
21:30 Jeddah (RU)
21:45 Dubai, Muscat (RU)
22:00 Abu Dhabi (RU)

MARKET PRICES

Upeslower price in lbs per kg
Apples 600 / 450
Bananas 450 / 400
Bananas (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Beans 330 / 270
Cabbages 120 / 80
Carrots 240 / 200
Cauliflowers 220 / 180
Corn 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 60
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 200
Dates 300 / 300

Norwegian envoy arrives

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Knut Volleback arrives in Jordan today to hold talks with Jordanian officials concerning the recent Gulf crisis and the influx of evacuees for the past several weeks into Jordanian territories. The minister will also visit Azraq and will talk with international organisations that have been helping Jordan with the evacuees.

"Norway has supported the United Nations position, and regarding the food and medicine issue, we support the United Nations formal point of view and we stick to its interpretations," Kjell Harald Dalen, Norwegian charge d'affaires in Damascus, said. Dalen, who is currently visiting Jordan, will accompany the deputy foreign minister on his tour in Jordan.

"We made a decision in principle to send a coast guard ship to the Gulf to assist in the military buildup," Dalen said. During his visit in Jordan, the deputy foreign minister will also hold talks with his Jordanian counterparts, to discuss the difficulties Jordan is passing through. Dalen told the Jordan Times on Sunday.

The minister and the Norwegian charge d'affaires will leave Jordan on Wednesday.

The Netherlands sends relief supplies to evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Dutch cargo planes carrying relief supplies to evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait arrived in Amman Sunday. The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) sources said the two planes were carrying foodstuffs presented by the Dutch Red Cross Society.

The sources said the shipment was financed by the European Community (EC). A delegation representing the Dutch Red Cross Society was at hand as the first shipments arrived in Amman to supervise relief works carried out by the JNRCS in cooperation with the International Association of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In another development head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the International Association of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Sulaiman Al Ghamari lauded JNRCS's efforts in carrying out relief works and assisting evacuees coming from Iraq and Kuwait.

Ghamari expressed the readiness of the association to supply JNRCS with all its needs to help it with the relief works. Later Sunday, Ghamari left Amman for Geneva.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Art exhibition by Mohammad Nasrallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- Part two of Shakespeare's play "Othello" will be shown on video at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

FILM

- Feature film entitled "The Quiet Man" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Drive carefully!
Traffic can be hazardous



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday chairs a symposium on women's role in society and investing in child sector (Petra photo)

Princess Basma: Child sector lacks sufficient, integrated services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The child sector which forms more than 50 per cent of the total population in Jordan still lacks sufficient and integrated services, and there is urgent need for investing in this sector and for involving women in this endeavour, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said Sunday.

"Concerned authorities and private and public organisations involved in social and voluntary services should come up with new methods and techniques to enhance the role of Jordanian women in serving the society," the Princess said in an address at the opening of a day-long symposium on the role of voluntary organisations in promoting the causes of women and children.

"Comprehensive development can not be achieved except through full coordination between the private and the public sectors, especially in the light of the increasing basic needs and the rising cost of providing such services," the Princess stressed.

"In trying to promote the work

of voluntary organisations, one has to take into consideration the question of training personnel and working out a national strategy that can ensure the minimum level of coordination among the various organisations involved in voluntary work," Princess Basma said.

"International developments, which imposed on Jordan certain challenges that certainly affected the voluntary sector, can be dealt with through upgrading the training of women so that they can play a constructive role in their society," the Princess said.

The Princess, who is chairperson of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), voiced Jordan's appreciation of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for its cooperation with QAF and other voluntary societies which care for Jordanian women and children.

UNICEF representative at the meeting, Nigel Fisher, addressed the meeting outlining the orga-

nisation's role in providing protection to children worldwide. He also mentioned the World Summit for Children, to be organised by UNICEF in New York on Sept. 29, which is expected to come up with a comprehensive plan to provide protection for children in the coming decades.

Fisher, who is deputy regional director and Jordan representative at UNICEF, said that the organisation is committed to offer continued assistance and relief supplies to the evacuees fleeing the Gulf region to Jordan, in cooperation with local and international organisations.

Fisher paid tribute to the Jordanian voluntary organisations for their important role in mother and child sector in Jordan.

Another prominent speaker at the opening session was Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), who said that all Jordanian chari-

table societies had contributed one way or another to the development of women and children through kindergartens, nurseries and women training centres.

Khatib voiced appreciation of QAF which, he said, exerts unique efforts to help the needy groups in society.

A total of five working papers were discussed during the symposium, covering the basic needs of children, women's contribution to development, the role of voluntary sector in promoting health, child welfare and ensuring the implementation of provision for the world declaration on children rights.

The symposium, organised by QAF and UNICEF, was part of the national preparations for the World Summit for Children.

Her Majesty Queen Noor is expected to take part at the summit which will be attended by world leaders and many heads of governments.

Jordan loses 80 per cent of exports through embargo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian industry is losing 80 per cent of its exports by halting trade with Iraq and Kuwait and if the present situation continues factories could soon find themselves laying off large numbers of workers, the Jordanian Exporters Association (JEA) announced here Sunday.

A spokesman for the association told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that it was rather difficult to find alternative markets for those in Iraq and Kuwait, which used to import most of the Jordanian products, and therefore layoffs seem to be inevitable.

Threats of laying off workers spell disaster for Jordan's economy, especially as current unemployment in the country is estimated to run at the rate of 20 per cent, according to observers.

The spokesman said that Jordan's total exports to Iraq and Kuwait last year amounted to \$280 million; these included medicines, agricultural equipment, electrical appliances, fertilisers, furniture, perambulators, ladders, gas cookers, kerosene

heaters, chemicals, carpets and paint.

To make things worse, the spokesman said, vessels carrying raw materials to Jordan and heading for Aqaba are being intercepted by warships and continually harassed; this forces them to discharge their cargo in neighbouring sea ports. "This practice causes extensive losses for Jordanian importers and subsequently heavy damage to the national economy," the spokesman said.

He said that Jordan had lost revenues from transporting Iraq-bound goods imported through the Aqaba port.

Jordan told the U.N. Security Council recently that it needed \$2.348 billion in loans and grants in the first year, as well as relief on its \$8.4 billion foreign debt to help it offset the consequences of the embargo on Iraq.

Reuters news agency earlier reported that activity at the port of Aqaba had slumped partly because the port no longer handles goods destined for Iraq and be-

cause of war risk insurance on imports.

The JEA official put forward several proposals which could help Jordan overcome part of its predicament and avoid a major disaster. He suggested reducing, cancelling or freezing bank interests on industry that manufacture goods for Iraq, finding new markets for Jordanian products, encouraging trade with the European common market countries, concluding trade protocols with Libya and Algeria, and marketing Jordanian products in countries that boycotted the Iraqi markets.

Coinciding with the JEA announcement, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) announced in a memorandum circulated to various banks in Jordan that Jordanian citizens and organisations can open accounts in foreign currency worth up to JD 150,000 up from JD 50,000.

CBJ said in a statement that the move was taken to encourage Jordanians to save more and invest in local projects.

Iraqi Red Crescent head ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society Ibrahim Al Noori and the accompanying delegation left Amman Sunday after a several-day visit to the Kingdom during which Noori met Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Ahmad Abu Qoura and took part in the emergency meeting of the Red Crescent and Red cross Societies executive committee which concluded in Amman last Friday.

Noori said that during his visit to Jordan an agreement was reached to establish an international humanitarian group for peace in Amman. He said the group would consist at the beginning of the Iraqi and Jordanian Red Crescent Societies and would call on international humanitarian organisations interested in achieving international peace to join the group.

Noori added that the Iraqi Red Crescent delegation would continue talks with Abu Qoura and other JNRCS officials after receiving the approval of world organisations willing to join the group.

The talks, he said, will deal with following the necessary procedures to achieve the objectives of the group: achieving peace in the Middle East region, preventing destructive wars as well as mobilising the world public opinion to achieve these objectives.

Noori described the efforts by the JNRCS in assisting evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq as distinguished and pointed out that the JNRCS cadres are running the relief works efficiently.

RSS issues reports on water situation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Environment Research Centre (ERC) at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has issued four reports about the water situation in Jordan; the research was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Aqaba Region Authority, the Ministry of Planning, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Canadian Agency for International Development.

One report covers the treated water from the Khirbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant. The plant treats the Zarqa River water flowing into the King Talal Dam.

The report focusses attention on the plant's works over the past four years, means of improving the quality of treated water; the adverse effects of the polluted water on the environment and the suitability of treated water for farming purposes.

A second report covers a study conducted on regions surrounding the Zarqa River, including area of conference with the King Talal Dam, the reservoir behind the dam, the nature of water entering the dam and its sources and the suitability of the dam water for breeding fish or irrigating farmlands.

New transport rules announced for trucks

AMMAN (J.T.) — All lorries with non-Jordanian Arab number plates and owned by Jordanians can now transport goods to and from Aqaba provided they obtain temporary number plates from the concerned authorities, according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday.

The communique said that these lorries could obtain temporary Jordanian plates against a JD 500 fee for six months in addition to ordinary traffic fees. These trucks should first be mechanically tested and issued roadworthiness certificates before obtaining the number plates, the communique added.

Previously trucks with non-Jordanian Arab number plates could only operate between Jordan and the Gulf countries, but

due to the current situation in the Gulf the majority of these trucks have been lying idle in Jordan.

Some estimates put the total number of trucks with non-Jordanian Arab number plates at 2,000.

Transport Ministry sources last month said that Jordan was losing more than JD 1 billion annually in land transportation as a result of the blockade imposed on Iraq.

These sources estimated the number of trucks that used to operate between Aqaba and Baghdad alone at 22,000.

Before the blockade the volume of imports and exports destined to Iraq, Kuwait and other countries accounted for 75 per cent of the total amount of goods coming via Aqaba and transported by trucks.

British Airways to help with evacuation

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the course of an intensive campaign to repatriate evacuees now flooding Jordan the British government announced that a British Airways Tristar, with a capacity of 393 passengers, will arrive in Amman Monday to contribute to the evacuation process.

A press release from the British Embassy here said the plane would operate six evacuation flights organised by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), evacuating about 2,400 refugees.

The British government is covering the cost of the whole operations outward flight from Britain, the press release said.

It said that Virgin Atlantic Airlines of Britain have arranged for a total of six flights to bring in consignments of emergency aid to Jordan totalling nearly 250 tonnes of tents, blankets, medical supplies and food donated by British

businesses and the British people.

Britain has so far donated £5.6 million, directly and through the European Community, to help in the transportation of refugees to their home countries and in emergency assistance to those still found in Jordan last week by British Minister of Overseas Development Lynda Chalker who voiced her appreciation of Jordanian authorities' efforts in tackling the evacuees problem.

The announcement coincided with a statement Sunday by the Public Security Department (PSD) here that a total of 14,850 Arab and foreign nationals had arrived in Jordan and that a total of 19,768 had left the country Saturday.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation authority (CAA) said that total of 8,356 passengers had left Jordan aboard 35 unscheduled flights Saturday.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Iraq Awqaf ministers hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr reviewed in a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Abdullah Fadel scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Iraq in religious fields and ways to promote and bolster them. The two ministers emphasised the importance of solidarity among Muslims at the present time. Fadel expressed his appreciation of the Jordanian people's stand on the Gulf issue.

Armenian patriarch continues visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Holy Land Archbishop Torkom Manougian Sunday visited the Greco-Roman city of Jerash and Armenian clubs and communities in the Kingdom. The patriarch, who arrived to Jordan Friday from the occupied territories, was received Saturday by His Majesty King Hussein who presented him with a Royal decree officially recognising him as Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem. The patriarch was also received by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Sharia college board approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday approved the formation of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Al Da'wa Religious College board of trustees. The board of trustees, which is chaired by Minister Ali Al Faqr, includes as members the Armed Forces Mufti Noah Salman, the University of Jordan's Dean of the Sharia Faculty Ibrahim Zaid Al Kilani, Yarmouk University's Dean of the Sharia Faculty Mohammad Uqla, Director of the ministry's Religious Education Department Saadi Jaber, Dean of Al Da'wa Religious College Rajih Al Kurdi, the ministry's Humanitarian Science College Dean Hmoud Al Awatli, President of the Tripoli-based International Islamic Da'wa Society Mohammad Ahmad Al Sharif, Abdul Hamid Abu Shaqra, Saaduddin Al Zamili and Abdul Karim Al Kayyali.

CAEU receives contribution from Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — An official source at the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) said Sunday the general secretariat had received the Syrian contribution to the secretariat's financial budget for the year 1990. The source expressed appreciation of Syria's positive role in supporting the CAEU and enhancing joint Arab action.

Job-seekers in Tafilah start course

TAFILAH (Petra) — A total of 36 job-seekers in Tafilah Governorate Sunday joined a course in electricity and mechanics. The three-month course, organised by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and the ministries of labour and education aims at training job-seekers in trades that are required by the local labour market so that they replace foreign workers in the country.

Jordan not to attend Asian Games

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is not participating in the 11th Asian Games due to start in Peking next week because of financial difficulties, according to an announcement by the Jordanian Olympic Committee. The committee, which met last week under the chairmanship of Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghababsheh, said that no Jordanian team would be sent to China this year to take part in the games in view of the country's financial difficulties. The decision was conveyed to the Chinese Asian Games Committee. A report from Peking said that China's Asian Games Secretary Wei Jizhong received the Jordanian notification, but gave no further details.

Food outlets closed in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Governorate Health Department Sunday closed down two bakeries and an ice cream factory for violating health regulations. The department's director Abdul Aziz Shreideh said several foodstuff merchants were also fined for the same reason.

South Korea donates water tanks for afforestation project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture received Sunday two water tankers with their spare parts as a present from the South Korean government. The tankers, worth \$270,000 with their spare parts, will be used in the desert highway afforestation project.

Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat who received the trucks from the South Korean Ambassador in Amman Tae Jin Park expressed the appreciation of the Jordanian government for the present and stressed the need to enhance cooperation between the two sides, particularly in agricultural fields.

Arabiyat invited Park to visit the afforestation project site and

the agricultural projects in the southern parts of the Kingdom being carried out in cooperation with Korea.

The desert afforestation project aims at planting trees on the sides of the Amman-Aqaba highway. So far 60 kilometres of the 400 kilometre-road are planted with trees.

The South Korean government has given six tankers of the needed 12 for the project.

The Korean ambassador expressed his government's readiness to promote cooperation between the two countries in agricultural fields, and readiness to offer more tankers and agricultural machinery to combat desertification.

Expatriates' funds frozen in Britain

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian expatriates returning from Kuwait and Iraq have been complaining that their deposits at British banks in the United Kingdom have been frozen along with those belonging to Kuwaiti and Iraqi citizens and organisations, and that their efforts to draw from their funds have ended in failure.

One expatriate who preferred anonymity said that he has been trying in vain to get funds he had deposited in Britain when he used to work in Kuwait. Although he left Kuwait eight months ago, the British banks had refused to release any of his funds because at the time of depositing his money his passport showed he was residing in Kuwait. Despite repeated attempts to get hold of his funds and despite appeals to the British authorities the man has not yet

received a reply. British Consul here Henry Hogger said that his country was applying U.N. Security Council resolutions which ordered the freezing of all assets and funds belonging to people living in Iraq and Kuwait.

"The British government has asked depositors to refer their cases to the Bank of England which has been arranging for the Kuwaitis and Iraqis living in Britain to obtain allowances from their deposits to cover their daily needs," the consul said. "A sum of £200 a day has been allowed for the Iraqis and Kuwaitis," the consul added.

Recent reports from London said that British customs and security officials at Heathrow airport were thoroughly searching briefcases and papers carried by Jordanian businessmen without giving any reasons.

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- on Tuesday 18/09 at 6 & 8 p.m.
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by Régis WARGNIER
- on Wednesday 19/09 at 6 & 8 p.m.
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by Francis GIROD

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Jordan Times

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Established 1974

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تأسست ١٩٧٤

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Build-up: Where to?

THE CONTINUED massing of U.S. and other troops in the Gulf, on a scale that suggests that Washington is hell bent on launching a military offensive against Iraq runs contrary to the U.S. constitution, international law and the U.N. Charter. The rule of thumb in the U.S. jurisprudence is that for the U.S. to deploy its military machine in an offensive manner against Iraq, or any other country, would require a declaration of war by the U.S. Congress. This has not happened and the U.S. president has so far not asked for it. It is not certain that President George Bush has decided to circumvent the constitutional requirements in his handling of the Gulf crisis because he knows only too well that he has no tenable legal position even from the U.S. laws' point of view to warrant the deployment of such massive troops in the Gulf region. But as Iraq has not fired even one shot on the U.S. troops stationed in the Gulf, and since neither Kuwait nor its oil is owned by the Americans, the U.S. chief executive would find it extremely difficult to declare war against Iraq. Over and above these considerations, the U.S. administration knows only too well that the U.S. Congress' tacit approval of the U.S. posture in the Middle East is precarious at best and could wither away the minute the first shot is fired and U.S. casualties start arriving home. The ongoing intoxication in Washington with the fervour of war cannot last forever and the hangover will gradually lead to more sober calculations as to the exact stakes that are involved in the Gulf conflict.

Across the Atlantic, West Europe's support for Washington's policies in the Gulf region are also projected to wane when the Europeans realise that their interests do not all coincide with those of the U.S. After all, the West Europeans are basically interested in the free and uninterrupted flow of Middle Eastern oil to their countries. Unlike the U.S., which is almost self-sufficient in terms of energy resources, including oil, Europe can ill afford to gamble with its traditional supplies of oil from Gulf for the sake of some self-centred perspective entertained by Washington and London. What Kuwait adds to Iraq's oil share in the world market is important but not nearly as critical as it is portrayed by Washington. In the final analysis, Kuwaiti oil will have to be sold and Western Europe will remain for all times the traditional market for Iraqi and Kuwaiti petroleum. In due course, both the U.S. Congress and the EC countries would realise that the oil supplies question has been deliberately blown out of all proportions by London and Washington in order to retrieve a traditional privileged position in the Gulf region, nothing more and nothing less.

Bush needs to make fresh calculations before he gets deeper in the sands of the Middle East. With his reelection only less than two years away, he must surely be wary of a shooting war that would entail thousands of U.S. casualties and the destruction of the very principles that he wants to save.

It is the hope of all peace-loving nations that neither President Bush nor the U.S. Congress would opt for war. Any war led by the U.S. against Iraq and the Arab Nation will have devastating consequences for both the Arabs and the Americans. But U.S. influence and interests in the region will ultimately be the biggest loser of all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE convening of a conference by various political groupings in the Arab World in Amman is not just a show of support for Iraq but it is rather a manifestation of the Arab Nation's realisation of the dangers inherent in the presence of foreign forces in Arab soil, said Al Ra'i daily Sunday. Speakers at the sessions declared their total opposition to and condemnation of the presence of the invading forces assembled in Saudi Arabia to strike at the Arab nation's will for freedom, the paper noted. The conference, the paper pointed out, is an open forum for the Arab masses to raise their voice and declare their total rejection of foreign attempts to subdue the Arabs and revive the colonial rule in the Arab region. It should be noted, said the paper, that this rejection is not a mere theory but that all the Arab masses will join hands and will wage a struggle against the foreign forces should these insist in pursuing their adventure. Arab masses will not hesitate to defend themselves and their future and national aspirations and will not spare a moment in backing Iraq in its defiance of the colonial powers and its leadership of the war of the poor countries against the rich, the paper pointed out. The threats directed against Iraq, the paper added, are threats posed to the Arab masses who are determined to abort all hostile attempts to prevent the Arabs from protecting their sovereignty and their freedom.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Sunday calls on the conference of political groupings now being held in Amman to adopt a set of resolutions designed to end the Gulf crisis and safeguard Arab national interests. Mahmoud Rimawi says that the conference ought to urge Arab states to declare their opposition to and condemnation of the current embargo imposed on Iraq, to denounce the U.N. Security Council resolutions which were taken arbitrarily and without offering Iraq the chance to present its case to the world and to demand that the Arab League headquarters remain in Tunis. The writer urges the conference to condemn foreign intervention in Arab affairs, to call for an international conference to start resolving all Middle East questions including the Arab-Israeli conflict and to declare the Arab Nation's total rejection of the creation of military pacts. Above all the writer wants the conference to declare that any aggression on Iraq be regarded as one directed against the whole Arab nation. The writer suggests that the best way to deal with the American onslaught on the Arab nation is to transform the Arabs' strategy from defence to offense — at least at the diplomatic level in the present time.

Al Dustour daily described France's actions taken in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi attack on its diplomatic mission in Kuwait as an unprecedented escalation of French hostility towards the Arab nation. It is a dangerous escalation of the situation, and one which could make the situation more and more explosive with unpredictable results, the paper noted.

Weekly Political Pulse

Egypt bears historical responsibility

IT will be recalled that Amman and Baghdad were in the forefront of the Arab capitals that initiated the efforts to repatriate Cairo to the Arab fold. Both His Majesty King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein were personally committed to the cause of ending Egypt's isolation and ostracism because of Egypt's signing of the Camp David accords, when such a campaign was the least popular in the Arab World. One would have thought that Cairo's appreciation of the Jordanian-Iraqi determined and relentless efforts on its behalf would not be so short lived as appears to be the case now. No matter how Amman and Baghdad may differ with Cairo on the basis of the Gulf crisis, one would have never thought that Cairo would choose to be on a head-on collision with them over the crisis in spite of the gravity of these differences. Had Egypt opted for another role in the Gulf conflict, predicated the need to defuse tensions there and reconcile the differences between Iraq and Kuwait, no matter how profound they were, its stature in the Arab World would have been enhanced

beyond the dreams of all Arabs. Even assuming the worst scenarios possible in the Gulf region, Egypt's natural role should have been motivated at all times by the need to play the role of a peace-maker and reconciliation. This is true, even if Cairo rejects all the arguments of Iraq in the Gulf situation and prescribes to all those of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Egypt's unique position as the heart of the Arab World should dictate a positive centralist position for it at all situations including the present Gulf conflict. But to choose sides so openly and so irrevocably threatens to undermine Cairo's long-range role in the Arab World and weakens its stature regionally and internationally.

What the Arab Nation needs most now is to strengthen the forces of those Arab countries that still seek an Arab solution to an essentially Arab problem. Egypt could have played such a critical and central role in that vein, had it chosen a broader vision of the whole situation. It is easy to take sides in inter-Arab conflict but much harder to bridge the gap between the differing Arab

countries as is the case now in the Gulf. The first choice entails the further aggravation of tensions and the exacerbation of the issues while the other offers greater opportunities to contain the conflict and the beginning of its resolution on an Arab basis. It does not take much imagination to realise how Egypt would never be comfortable with its military involvement in the Gulf under the prevailing circumstances. Even Saudi Arabia itself cannot be comfortable with the deployment of so many foreign troops on its soil. The multitude of problems that are

naturally posed by such massive deployment, be they cultural, economic or political, not to mention the religious dimensions of such deployment, are indeed awesome and must weigh heavily on the conscience of the Saudi leadership. This foreign intervention is the first of its kind in both contemporary and distant history of the Saudi kingdom and will naturally send untold tremors across the entire Arabian peninsula.

Had Cairo encouraged the deployment of an Arab peace-keeping force to protect Saudi Arabia from any real or im-

aginary Iraqi threat, and made such Arab deployment contingent on keeping non-Arab forces away from the Gulf region, its stature and credibility would have climbed to new heights unmatched in recent times.

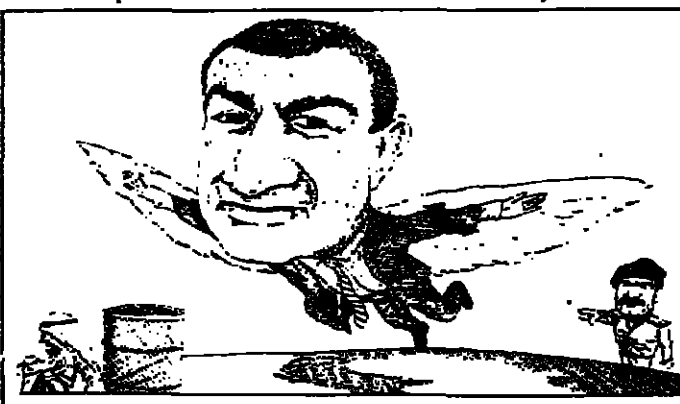
The moral of the story is that there is still time and opportunities to reverse the tide of hysteria and panic that were allowed to supreme reign in the midst of the Arab World.

As Jordan still persists in seeking an Arab way out of the Gulf conflict, and in so doing, offers a nucleus for potentially positive Arab mediation efforts, it is not too late for Egypt to lend support to this sane Arab perspective and begin the process of demilitarising the crisis in the Gulf region. Washington would have to reassess its stance in the area, the minute the principal Arab players on its side begin to send signals that the military solution to the Kuwaiti situation should be dealt out of the cards for all times.

Cairo must strive to replay its central role in the Arab politics by rectifying its present course in favour of a more balanced posture that could

serve the cause of peace and reconciliation in the Gulf region. In spite of the lateness of the hour, channels of communication between Cairo, Baghdad and Amman must be maintained in spite of all the negative indicators surrounding the Gulf situation.

In this vein, Cairo is duty bound to remember its true friends who did not hesitate to extend to it a helping hand when it needed such help most. But even more pressing than remembering old friends is to reassess the historic issues involved in the ongoing Gulf crisis and acquire a perspective based on the broadest possible vision commensurate with the far-reaching principles organically linked with the Gulf situation. Surely, Cairo sees in the reaction to the Kuwaiti situation a rerun of the Mosadak syndrome with all its implications for the Arab Nation and order. For Egypt to put its weight in the conflict, would have a lasting impact on the contemporary and future Arab history. This awesome responsibility calls for a thorough reappraisal by President Hosni Mubarak.



A crisis of misunderstanding

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

BAGHDAD — To hear Iraqi officials tell it, the United States has manoeuvred itself into a no-win situation in the Gulf crisis.

If Washington goes to war against Iraq, the United States will sink into a Vietnam-style quagmire and the international alliance which President George Bush tried to collapse.

If Bush tries to starve Iraq into submission, countries hurt by the economic embargo against Iraq will eventually break ranks. And in the Arab World sentiment against the United States will grow with every day that a huge U.S. military force remains on Arab soil.

"In either case, the United States will lose," said a senior Iraqi official. "Time is on our side."

That seems to be the prevailing view in government offices in Baghdad. It differs so starkly from the U.S. assessment that a visitor arriving here from Washington might wonder whether Iraqi and American officials are talking about the same crisis.

As seen in Washington, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has bitten off more than he can chew with his Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and is bound to lose unless he withdraws his troops in compliance with United Nations resolutions.

According to U.S. officials, time is on the American side as the international embargo, growing more effective by the day, chokes off vital spare parts for Iraq's military and industry.

As these sanctions create shortages and hardships, opposition to Saddam among Iraq's 18 million people — thirsting for peace after eight years of war with Iran — could lead to a plot to oust the Iraqi president, according to U.S. officials.

But if it comes to war, according to the Washington version, the United States is assured of victory because of the overwhelming technological superiority of its armaments. Its high-tech bombers and fighters would dominate the air and lay waste military and industrial installations.

Cruise missiles launched from U.S. battleships would blow Iraqi command and control centres to high heaven. Apache attack helicopters and A-10 aircraft would knock out Iraq's Soviet-made tanks like so many toys.

American ground troops using infra-red sighting equipment would seek out Iraqi positions in the dead of night and take them by surprise.

But military historians say that technological superiority is no guarantee for success as aerial bombardment has never decided a war.

In Vietnam, massive bombing by U.S. B-52s cut the main roads but the Vietcong pushed bicycles loaded with ammunition and supplies along jungle tracks.

The United States lost the war. In World War II the U.S. and its allies commanded the air and unleashed a first storm of bombs on German cities but the war was lost in close-quarter fighting.

"One of the problems in this crisis is that both sides are beginning to believe their own prop-

aganda," said a European diplomat in Baghdad.

That narrows the room for a negotiated solution.

Both in Baghdad and in Washington, the officials most familiar with their opponents' strengths and weaknesses have had relatively little say in shaping policies since Iraq's lightning strike into Kuwait and its subsequent annexation.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has a small team of U.S.-educated experts, most with prestigious degrees from U.S. universities. They are attuned to the internal dynamics of policymaking in Washington and the dangers of miscalculating public opinion.

Judging from the government-controlled Iraqi media, Baghdad's confidence that it will prevail in the confrontation is partly based on the assumption that the American public would support neither a prolonged standoff nor a shooting war in defence of cheap oil or the Saudi royal family.

Public opinion polls in the United States have put that assumption in question, however, showing that support for President Bush has steadily increased in the five weeks since the crisis began.

While Iraq's "Americans" appear to have played a relatively small role in making policy in the crisis, the U.S. State Department's Arabists have also been on the sidelines.

The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie, for example, has not made a single public appearance since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait which happened while she was on home leave.

Never a strong faction in the State Department, its Arab experts have warned the Bush administration of the possibility of Arab opinion swinging against Washington if it were seen to prepare for a permanent presence in the Middle East, according to diplomats in Washington.

Secretary of State James Baker told a congressional hearing last week that U.S. forces might stay in the Middle East even after the end of the Gulf crisis as part of new regional security arrangements.

That statement caused unease even among some of the Arab countries which have deployed troops in Saudi Arabia alongside the estimated 135,000 U.S. soldiers now in the region.

One Arab diplomat in Baghdad said Baker's statement reflected long-standing U.S. difficulties in understanding national sensitivities in a region where people tend to blame most of their economic and political troubles on the old colonial powers, the United States and Israel.

But if the United States occasionally misreads the mood of Arabs, Iraq equally appears to miscalculate the political arena in Washington.

Officials in Baghdad say the government would be prepared to negotiate a settlement on the basis of a proposal by Saddam Hussein which linked withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait with Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The likelihood of that being accepted (in Washington) is about as great as that of Saddam stepping down, saying he made a mistake, and calling general elections," said a Western diplomat.

For Japan the question remains: Should we or shouldn't we?

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

TOKYO — "For Japanese, the Middle East is far away and little understood," said a government official referring to Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

"The only issue that touches people is getting the hostages out."

While television programmes provide a wealth of information and analysis on the Gulf crisis, the tone is emotional and the mood in Japan is one of indifference.

Even relatives of people held in Iraq and Kuwait interviewed on television have been restrained, speaking more of anxiety for their loved ones than of anger against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The response from politicians and the public reflects the apathetic attitude to foreign affairs in Japan since its World War II defeat. Under the constitution, the country is forbidden to go to war and its troops have been banned from serving abroad.

Japanese children have been indoctrinated on the evils of the pre-1945 militarist system, leading to a sense of isolation from world conflicts. For 250 years before Japan started modernising in 1868, the country banned any contact with the outside world.

For Japan, the Gulf crisis is different in two ways.

First, more than 140 Japanese have been held and used as human shields to prevent attack, involving Japan in the international drama whether it likes it or not.

Another 200 are being detained in Iraq against their will.

Secondly, because Japan has become the world's second-biggest economic power and depends on the Middle East for about 70 per cent of its oil, its Western allies expect it to contribute men, ships and materials as well as money.

Public opinion, however, has not budged. "Few people want to change the constitution and the law on the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) so as to send a large number of troops abroad," said the financial daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

It was difficult to resolve the contradiction between the long-held stance that Japan is a country of peace and the view that Japan must help its allies in the Gulf emergency, the newspaper said.

"This crisis has nothing to do with Japan," said one school teacher. "Japan has no colonial links with the Middle East, unlike the Britain and France, and did not supply Iraq with any of its weapons, unlike many of the countries that are now opposing it."

"We have not been involved in a war for 45 years. It is against our way of thinking and behaviour. Why should we not have our own foreign policy? Why must we always do what the Americans want?" he said.

A housewife said the Japanese had felt the "oil shock" in the mid-1970s because of some shortages and a rise in petrol prices.

"But now everything is normal. Nothing is lacking. We have not been touched. Who in



Japan understands all the complexities of Middle East politics? Only if things start to run short will we feel there is a crisis," she said.

An Asian diplomat said newspapers and television were playing a key role in keeping the atmosphere cool.

"They present facts in a dispassionate way and avoid extreme positions. Perhaps, it is a form of self-censorship, to avoid arousing strong feelings," said.

The current atmosphere in Japan translates into narrow policy options for Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who would

have no popular backing for sending large numbers of Japanese to the Gulf.

"He cannot send SDF members because of the constitution," said the government official. "He can only request volunteers to go, and few want to. They feel this crisis has nothing to do with them."

Japan Air Lines, for example, has agreed to help the multinational force but only on condition its planes do not carry military cargo and the government guarantees the safety of its crew, which it can hardly do without any forces in the Gulf.

Bush's big chance!

By Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta

A once-in-a-presidency opportunity to create a new world order. George Bush, still looking for "the vision thing," has yet to clearly enunciate the chief reason why he has committed troops to the Middle East. Bush has said he is there to reinstate the Kuwaiti royal family to power. But the message the American public has heard is that our men and women are risking their lives to keep the supply of oil flowing.

If soldiers start coming home in body bags, either reason will sound hollow.

There is a vision behind the deployment, even if Bush doesn't see it. Saddam Hussein has handed Bush the makings of greatness.

Peace was breaking out all over the globe just a few months ago. It still is, and Bush has the opportunity to use that spirit of global cooperation in Kuwait. He has a once-in-a-presidency chance to create a new world order in which crises are solved through consensus and international law, which, for the first time, a majority of nations are interpreting the same way.

Today's crisis, like the period following World War II, sets in motion forces that, by their very nature, depart from past patterns of behaviour and could change

the course of history in the Middle East. It can be used as leverage to bring the East Bloc, and even Israel, into a common cause with Arabs and the West.

Since the creation of Israel, there have been five wars between Israel and its Arab neighbours. In each case Israel acquired Arab land, and the United States didn't rush in troops to force the return of that land, as it has with Kuwait.

During the past 40 years, the plight of the Palestinians and the Israeli occupation dominated the Middle East. The debate focused on security for Israel and a homeland for the Palestinians. But the Iraqi crisis changes that. It requires a new look at the long-held Israeli contention, once seen as self-serving, that the real threat to stability in the region will come from inter-Arab fighting and not from an Arab-Israeli conflict.

America's national interests in the region have been defined by four primary objectives. The first has been to ensure the security and survival of Israel. The second has been to ensure access to a reliable and steady supply of relatively cheap oil. The third has been to maintain good relations with Arab nations and seek a peace between them and Israel. The fourth was to keep the

Soviets out of the region.

The fourth is nearly obsolete, and in fact the United States is now trying to get the Soviets into the area with military force, since they are already diplomatically on the U.S. side.

The second priority, cheap oil, is not anywhere close to becoming an obsolete priority, but how high a price will the United States pay in lives to preserve access to oil?

There are many, particularly in the White House, who are privately and publicly saying that our highest priority is oil, because it drives the world economy. While oil is important, it pales, in our view, before something else that hangs in the balance of this crisis.

What is at stake in the Gulf is how the United States solves problems in the new world. The role must be defined in a way that fosters consensus, cooperation and diplomatic solutions to crises — and resists the temptation to become a heavy-handed world police force.

America is in uncharted territory. The absence of superpower competition throughout the Third World has dangers as well as opportunities. When the superpowers withdraw from many world trouble spots, the resulting power vacuum may be filled by

regional bullies and dictators. Just last spring, Saddam told Arab leaders that they should seek their own solutions to regional problems, because the Soviets could no longer be counted on to match the U.S. presence in the Middle East.

Then Saddam invaded Kuwait as an example of how he took care of his own problems.

In the past, U.S. diplomacy meant dealing with the devil we knew — countries headed by pro-Soviet leaders who were being challenged by pro-Western guerrillas, or the opposite, U.S. allies challenged by leftist guerrillas. Today's crisis in the Gulf has resulted in an unpredicted unity among nations of all stripes in the United Nations Security Council.

It is a spirit of cooperation that should not be sacrificed for the urge to play Rambo. The temptation to use U.S. troops once they are fully deployed in Saudi Arabia should be avoided.

A multilateral approach through the once-ridiculed United Nations has much promise for world stability and security, if President Bush and his allies can make it work in this crisis.

That is why, it is so critical to zero in on a vision that is greater than cheap oil or the needs of the Kuwaiti royal family — The Washington Post.

Majali lambasts British role in Gulf

The following letter was sent to the British prime minister this week by the Jordan-British Friendship Society. A copy of the letter was made available to the Jordan Times.

To Her Excellency Mrs. Thatcher,

I have been delegated by my colleagues, the Jordanian members of the Jordan British Society in Amman, to address to your Excellency this letter which is an original and genuine expression of the deep concerns of the members, and of the concerns of every Jordanian in particular and Arab in general as relates to the escalating events in the Arabian Gulf. I take this opportunity to offer to your Excellency my deepest respect and regards and to pray the Almighty to maintain peace on our planet and to spread love and goodwill among all human beings.

We have strong faith in the indispensability of friendship among peoples who have the highest regard for the moral and humane values that religion so firmly impresses upon us all, and which are firmly built upon mutual respect, the protection of integrity and the preservation of the inalienable right of every community to self-determination. From this firm belief, we, Jordanians representing a varied cross-section of our Jordanian-Arab Society — namely people of various political, economic, social and professional expertise have formed, together with a group of friends from the United Kingdom who live among us in Jordan, a Jordanian-British friendship society, and have nurtured this product of our union for many years. The society today represents a bond between two great peoples sharing firmly held principles and values the roots of which grow as old as history itself, and which remain the prime motivator of our being every step of the way.

Following in the footsteps of our beloved leader, H.M. King Hussein, we have always striven to be objective and calm in our expression, and have consistently shunned recrimination and rage lest we lose our credibility of which your Excellency is well aware, and our openness and lucidity have always served to confirm, in principle, our position. Whereas honesty among peoples is one of the pillars upon which friendship can be built and maintained, we wish to present to your excellency the following facts:

First: If we were to consider as given the fact that the legitimate interests shared among peoples which are represented by the decisions of their governments are those that dictate the form of mutual relationship, and in general dictate the form of international relations, then the supremacy of international law is as crucial as the supremacy of the internal laws of each individual nation. Therefore, the first principle of such a supremacy is that it is indivisible and may in no way, shape or form, be selective depending on the self-interest of one particular nation or group of nations. While we are firmly against any occupation of one's land by another through the use of force, and the annexation of such land in spite of the will of its people we like our Arab brethren, feel that international law as embodied in form and content by the resolutions of the United Nations and their Security Council, has been and remains a spectre looming ominously over the Arabs alone.

Our most blatant example in this matter is the unimaginably rapid succession of Security Council resolutions relating to the current crisis in the Arabian Gulf and their speedy implementation, and the huge number of nations that have joined in their execution led by the United States of America, while the well-known Security Council Resolution 242, of British conception and sponsorship, has been and remains dormant a quarter of a century later. Would your excellency be so kind as to satisfactorily justify this overbearing of the world to enforce international law vis-a-vis the Arabs, and the extreme lethargy in enforcing it vis-a-vis Israel? The past month has unveiled a despicable attempt to starve eighteen million Arab Iraqis and punishment for a purely local Arab matter, for their refusal to submit to the resolutions of the Security Council within twenty-four hours. Meanwhile, Israel has received billions of dollars over the years of its occupation of the Arab lands of Palestine as a reward for the taking Arab land, for their refusal to submit to such resolutions for a period of twenty-four years. We pose the question but no meaningful response is ever forthcoming of which we may inform the millions of homeless refugees in the Palestinian camps, and to the millions who might, God forbid, starve in the cities and towns of Iraq.

Second: Immediately at the onset of the crisis, even before we, in the Arab house, could attempt to reach Arab solution, we encountered the massive armadas of the West and its armed forces, offensive weaponry and the noose of economic sanctions backed by military might. International resolutions inundated Iraq and the world to justify the measures being taken on the ground and in the air. Each successive international resolution

came down as a justification for action instead of action being the implementation of the resolution. By this sequence of events, the allegation that these actions were taken to uphold world legitimacy is negated because these actions themselves were a blatant transgression against legitimacy. This international multinational overcrowding in our Arab house succeeded only in aborting any possible Arab solution, in the internationalisation of this conflict, and in the creation of an open season on the resources and wealth of the Arab house as though it were, God forbid, defenceless and unguarded. Ought we to submit to such a blatant violation of the sanctity of our Arab home?

Third: In the wake of the Eastern Bloc's disintegration and recession, we proceeded to follow intently and cautiously the bold and constructive steps taken towards achieving European unity in 1992. We share with Europe common interests, historical friendships and geographical links, thus making Europe's strength an inspiration to us in our quest for a balance of power in the world. By contrast, the U.S. seeks to dilute the strength of the European giant by various means, in order to prevent the achievement of this goal within the allotted time.

The Gulf crisis came at a most opportune time for the U.S. to achieve this most self-serving goal. The U.S. has become the keeper of the sources of Arab oil, and has taken hold of the rudder by which it steers to paralysis a united Europe — provided such unity does actually occur in view of the events in the Gulf — in addition to paralysing Japan's economic capabilities, and finally creating the international American dictatorship for a long time to come. If the official position of the U.S. is to fight the so-called "Iraqi dictator" and has, through the use of this fictitious term, enlisted Europe and Japan to join in the elimination of this so-called regional dictatorship, then you will be contributing, and, in this case, quite clearly, albeit indirectly, to the creation of the international dictator whose power will be infinite and uncontrollable. Through this contribution of yours, you will be putting your legitimate rights at the whim of the wind, and your unification will become kindling for the flames of the war of American interests.

Would we be contradicting recent history if we were to state that it was the U.S. that used all of its resources to undermine and displace the interests of Europe in the Arab orient, and has succeeded in substituting itself for it? And would we be contradicting the present if we were to state that the U.S. has today enlisted Europe to reinforce its own presence and self-interest? And if it were to succeed in this action, God forbid, would we be contradicting logic if we were to state that the future does not bode well for us as Arabs and for you as Europeans if the U.S. were to control Arab oil and dominate the single most important tract of land in the whole world?

Fourth: The Arabian Gulf region is and shall remain Arab, and its independent Arab decision concerning its resources and cultural relations with the peoples of this earth shall remain so forever. Why would oil be such a disaster if the decisions relating thereto were left to the Arabs alone? Arab interests demand that oil be sold to its consumers to create the financial resources so indispensable to the development process. No one will suffer a shortage of oil as long as relations and interests are based upon mutual respect. Is it then plausible that decisions on Arab oil be American for prosperity to abound? Would Britain, for example accept the Washington control the decisions relating to oil in the North sea? Just as your answer is a resounding no, so is ours; for we value our independence and refuse subordination. We remain eternally indebted to the martyrs who fell on the battle fields of the Arab wars of freedom, those martyrs whose blood douses the very soil on which we firmly stand.

In closing, I wish to reiterate that the massive rage that has been directed at us shall serve only to strengthen our resolve; for our self-respect and independence demand it. History has shown that Arab consciousness is at its zenith when others subject us to occupation, exploitation and subordination.

We feel today, that, in spite of the weak and unacceptable Arab contribution to the noose of starvation and of attempts at humiliation, Arab resolve is unshakable, and Arab solidarity which arises out of a foundation of independence and a history of struggle, shall not founder. Throughout the Arab nation, Arabs will not be satiated if even one of our brothers shall go hungry in the land of Iraq; for this is in complete contravention of our religion and yours, and in contravention of all the principles of human rights and of all those values which had, in the first place, brought us together in this friendship society on behalf of and through which I today address your excellency.

Sincerely,

General Abdul Hadi Majali
Chairman of the Jordan British Society

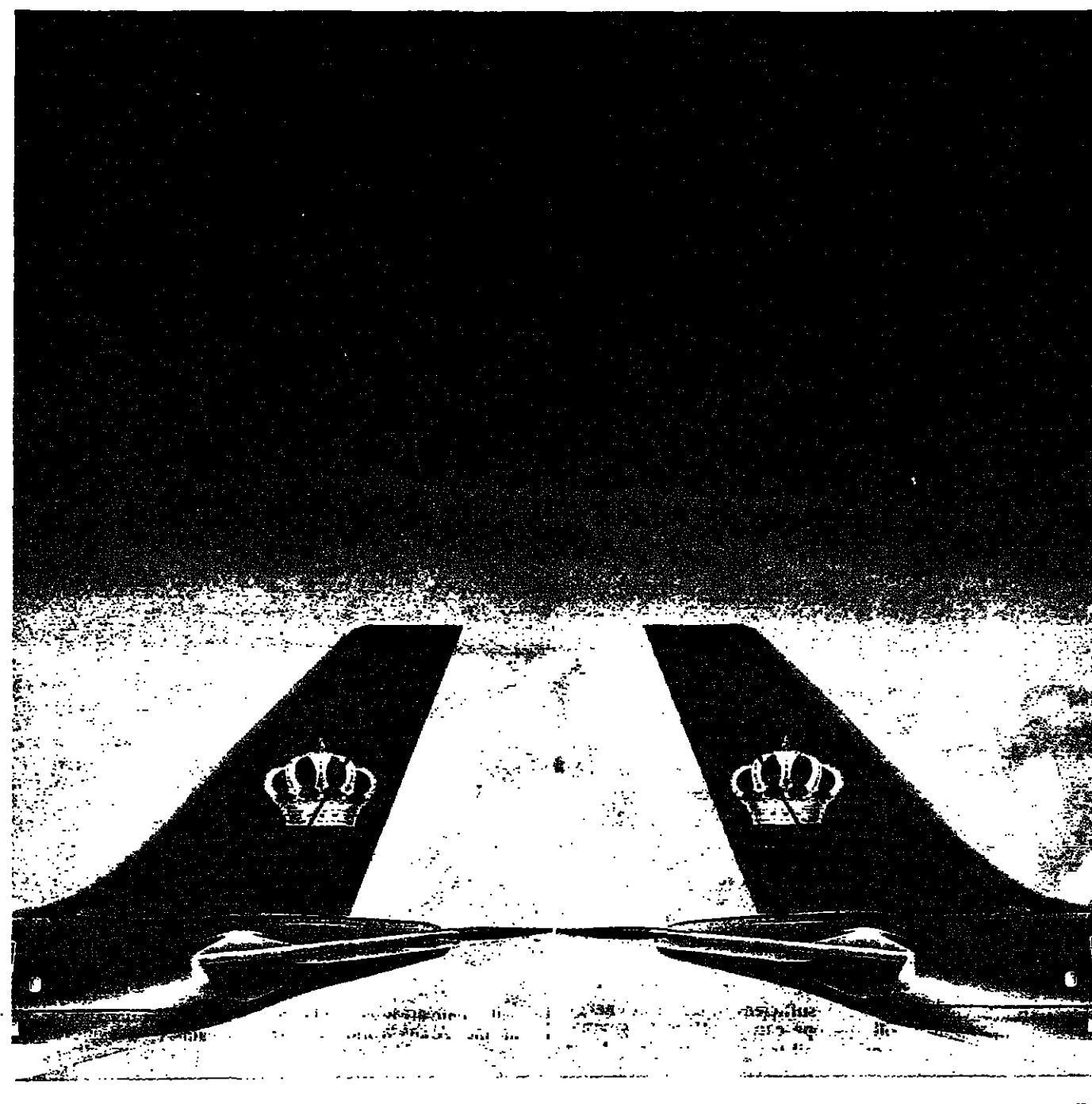
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Conserve water ...
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Birds pay the price for fifteen years of civil war in Lebanon

By Ziad Talhouk
Reuter

BEIRUT, — At least twice a year Lebanese militiamen point their automatic rifles and anti-aircraft guns into the sky and blast away at rare migratory birds.

Taking a respite from fighting in the country's 15-year-old civil war, they drive their jeeps out to the highways between residential areas and start firing at the birds en route to Europe or Asia.

The bullets and shells are often bigger than their victims.

"We think fighting has erupted and we seek it for somewhere to hide, but later we find out that militiamen are hunting birds. We look at the sky and see the white creatures blowing up," said Sami Younis, a student.

Many of the birds are rare predators. Several thousand Dalmatian pelicans used to cross the country regularly, but on a recent migration, there were only about 1,500.

"While West Germans are paying millions of marks to protect and preserve some of these birds... Lebanese and Syrians are slaughtering them on sight," ornithologist Asaad Serhal told Reuters.

Lebanon is a natural resting place for migrating birds, said Serhal, head of the Society for Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon.

Ornithologists say some five million predatory birds — belonging to 45 different species — fly over the Middle East. Some of them can be traced back to pre-historic times, according to geologists.

Serhal said that before the civil war erupted in 1975 there were 400,000 licensed bird hunters out of Lebanon's three million population. Now there are far more.

"Hunting is a tradition in

Lebanon."

Hundreds of thousands of predators and millions of small birds are killed each season, he said.

"Isn't it better than joining militias and shelling or shooting people?" said Walid Itani, 28, a regular hunter.

The ornithologists say predatory birds play an important role in the balance of nature by eating insects. They also help dispose of corpses.

Mohammed Khawil, chairman of the Geology Department at the American University of Beirut (AUB), said Lebanese people as well as the government were responsible for upsetting the balance of the country's environment.

He said the dehydration of lakes and deforestation harmed passing birds by depriving them of food, water and places to rest.

Serhal said that, before it dried up, the Amniah Lake in the eastern Bekaa Valley was one of the main stopping places for waves of migrating birds.

Climatic changes and excessive pumping of the lake's waters for irrigation were to blame for it drying up, he said.

"Springs and rivers can be the natural and obvious substitutes for the lakes, but unfortunately, with sewers dumped into them, the polluted water is killing the birds," Serhal said.

Professor Abdul Munim Talhouk, an entomologist at the AUB, said many Lebanese farmers were using internationally-banned insecticides which were poisoning the birds.

Toxic insecticides not only killed scores of predatory birds but also affected the fertility of those who survived, said Serhal, author of "Guide of predatory birds in the Middle East."

"When man sees birds perishing around him, he should know he is next," he said.

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Money row could delay EC aid for states hit by crisis

BRUSSELS (R) — An old-fashioned dispute over money could hold up European Community (EC) aid for countries hit by the Gulf crisis when the 12 EC foreign ministers meet Monday to finalise the \$2-billion package, diplomats said.

The ministers' regular monthly meeting will allow them to coordinate their response to Friday's alleged intrusion by Iraqi soldiers into embassy buildings in Kuwait of EC members France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

They may consider whether to call for sanctions against countries which do not apply the United Nations trade embargo imposed against Iraq, Italy, the current EC president, France and the United States all said on Saturday that they favour such a move.

The EC ministers will also meet Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who will be anxious to ensure that the realignments in the Middle East triggered by the crisis will not further damage relations already strained by the Palestinian issue.

In a further sign of those shifting alliances, the meeting is likely to agree to unblock EC funds for

Syria which have been frozen since December 1986 after a foiled bomb attack on an El Al airliner in London in which Damascus was implicated.

Syria has joined the international campaign against Baghdad. That prompted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to visit Damascus last week, despite past U.S. accusations that Syria supports "terrorism."

Diplomats say Britain, which cut diplomatic relations with Syria over the 1986 bomb attack, has now dropped its objection to renewing EC financial aid.

Details of help for Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, are likely to dominate the meeting.

The ministers agreed in principle a week ago that the EC should help compensate those countries for the damage to their economies caused by international sanctions against Baghdad.

Strung by suggestions that European governments have lagged behind Washington in their response to the crisis, the community wants to avoid any delays to the package.

"If we don't deliver, we will lose all credibility," said one senior diplomat.

But, as ever in community business, where money is at stake the bargaining can soon turn to bickering.

The EC Executive Commission has proposed giving the three countries a total 1.5 billion European Currency Units (\$1.95 billion) next year — half from the community's budget and half from the coffers of the 12 member states — as part of a \$9-billion international package.

In preparatory meetings last week, however, Spain, Belgium, Britain and the Netherlands argued that the community should wait to see how much wealthy Gulf states and Japan were prepared to contribute before finalising the EC payment.

EC sources say Saudi Arabia is reluctant to help Jordan because it believes that Amman is not applying rigorously the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq.

Tokyo has now announced that it will pay \$2 billion to help the so-called "frontline states" — a move which may help Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, who will chair Monday's meeting, to sway the doubters.

Britain and France will argue that their contribution should be reduced to take into account the military forces they have sent to the Gulf, a commitment which both countries have increased in the past few days.

Other countries are not convinced.

"Britain is gaining money as an oil exporter. And in any case, a frigate costs the same whether it's in the Mediterranean or in the Gulf," one diplomat said.

The poorer EC states, as usual, argue that they should not have to shoulder the same burden as their richer partners or should themselves be compensated in some way.

Belgian minister in Cairo

Belgian Defence Minister Guy Coeque arrived in Cairo Sunday on a two-day visit for talks with his Egyptian counterpart, Sabri Abu Taleb.

The Middle East News Agency said the two men were scheduled to open their talks on how to bolster military cooperation between the two countries Monday.

U.N. resolution on embassies

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of a resolution adopted unanimously by the U.N. Security Council early Sunday strongly condemning Iraq's alleged violation of diplomatic premises in Kuwait:

The Security Council, REAFFIRMING its Resolutions 660 (1990), 661 (1990), 662 (1990), 664 (1990), 665 (1990) and 666 (1990),

RECALLING the Vienna conventions of 18 April 1961 on diplomatic relations and of 24 April 1963 on consular relations, to both of which Iraq is a party,

CONSIDERING that the decision of Iraq to order the closure of diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait and to withdraw the immunity of these missions and their personnel is contrary to the decisions of the Security Council, the international conventions mentioned above and international law,

DEEPLY concerned that Iraq, notwithstanding the decisions of the Security Council and the provisions of the conventions mentioned above, has committed acts of violence against diplomatic missions and their personnel in Kuwait,

OUTRAGED at recent violations by Iraq of diplomatic premises in Kuwait and at the abduction of personnel en-

joying diplomatic immunity and foreign nationals who were present in those premises;

2. Demands the immediate release of those foreign nationals as well as all nationals mentioned in Resolution 664 (1990);

3. Further demands that Iraq immediately and fully comply with its international obligations under Resolutions 660 (1990), 662 (1990) and 664 (1990) of the Security Council, the Vienna conventions on diplomatic and consular relations and international law;

4. Further demands that Iraq immediately protect the safety and well-being of diplomatic and consular personnel and premises in Kuwait and in Iraq and take no action to hinder the diplomatic and consular missions in the performance of their functions, including access to their nationals and the protection of their person and interests;

5. Reminds all states that they are obliged to observe strictly resolutions 661 (1990), 662 (1990), 664 (1990), 665 (1990) and 666 (1990);

6. Decides to consult urgently to take further concrete measures as soon as possible, under Chapter VII of the Charter, in response to Iraq's continued violations of the Charter, of resolutions of the Council and of international law.

1. Strongly condemns aggressive acts perpetrated by Iraq against diplomatic premises and personnel in Kuwait, including the abduction of

foreign nationals who were present in those premises;

2. Demands the immediate release of those foreign nationals as well as all nationals mentioned in Resolution 664 (1990);

3. Further demands that Iraq immediately and fully comply with its international obligations under Resolutions 660 (1990), 662 (1990) and 664 (1990) of the Security Council, the Vienna conventions on diplomatic and consular relations and international law;

4. Further demands that Iraq immediately protect the safety and well-being of diplomatic and consular personnel and premises in Kuwait and in Iraq and take no action to hinder the diplomatic and consular missions in the performance of their functions, including access to their nationals and the protection of their person and interests;

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1. Strongly condemns aggressive acts perpetrated by Iraq against diplomatic premises and personnel in Kuwait, including the abduction of

Iraq ridicules U.S. general's air 'strategy'

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq Sunday ridiculed public comments by the U.S. air force chief of staff that American forces would rely on their bombers and fighter jets to force Iraqi troops from Kuwait if war erupted.

The international affairs editor of the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said General Michael Dugan's remarks, published by the Washington Post Sunday, "will neither shake the fronds of Iraqi palm trees nor awaken a sleeping giant."

Dugan was quoted as saying that air force strikes would include a massive bombing campaign against Baghdad that would target Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

He said this view was shared by the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf, General Norman Schwarzkopf.

In response, the INA editor said Iraq was "protected by the arms of the proud Iraqi hawks and by their superior skill."

"While ridiculing and mocking such statements, we would like to warn Dugan, those behind him, and all agents and traitors who

turned the lands of Najd and Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) into dens for U.S. planes that these dens will be demolished over their heads," the commentator said.

Dugan said targets in Iraq would include air defences, missile sites, chemical, nuclear and weapons plants, as well as power systems, roads and railroads.

"The cutting edge would be in downtown Baghdad. This (bombing) would not be nibbling at edges. If I want to hurt you, it would be at home, not out in the woods some place," the Post quoted Dugan as saying.

The strength of Iraq's huge army and tank force makes air power "the only answer" to avoid a bloody land war that would probably destroy Kuwait, the military official said.

Although he described those as "a nice list of targets," he said he considered the proposed measures incomplete.

Dugan said he had asked planners to determine "what is unique about Iraqi culture that they put very high value on. What is it that psychologically would make an impact on the population and regime in Iraq?"

Iranian team in Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Tehran to improve relations. Mutaqi's visit to Baghdad came a day after Iraq issued a criticism of a senior Iranian cleric for saying Iraq gave advance warning to the United States that it would invade Kuwait.

The statement by Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili, a former Iranian chief justice, was "mere lies, desperate ideas stemmed from shallowness, shortsightedness and lack of vision," INA quoted an unnamed "authorised source" at the information ministry as saying Saturday.

Almost two-thirds of Iran's members of parliament declared the United States "the number one enemy of Islam" and said Sunday they endorsed the call by Khamenei for holy war.

IRNA said 168 of the parliament's 270 members signed a roll as a token of support for Khamenei's criticism of the build-up of U.S. forces in the Gulf and "upheld his call for a jihad against the American forces."

IRNA said the deputies said that to fight against the U.S. forces "is a holy war and that to be killed in the performance of that duty is to be martyred for a religious cause."

Baghdad rejects food rules

(Continued from page 1)

on the issue, it said: "We cannot accept this mission because it comes within the framework of this humiliating resolution."

"We also do not expect Saddam Hussein to accept such an insulting mission... and hope the secretary-general will not follow such a course," it added.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz had earlier rejected any outside supervision of food supplies to Iraq.

Thursday's "unjust resolution is no different from other resolutions adopted by the council since Aug. 2 (when Iraq invaded Kuwait)," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

"It seems the American and western will is still the dominating force in the formulation of Security Council resolutions," it added.

It said Iraq was fully ready to cooperate with the governments of foreign residents in the country, especially Asians, to ensure their needs "and is doing its utmost... to continue providing them with food supplies and facilitating the departure of those wishing to leave."

The Iraqi Red Crescent has expressed its full readiness to cooperate with similar societies in "reducing the suffering of foreigners residing in Iraq and meeting their food and medical requirements," the statement added.

Conference to defy siege

(Continued from page 1)

dates. The proposal was made by the president of Iraq's workers' union who suggested that Arab workers stage a boycott, "every now and then," of American shipments or even air baggage for two hours across the Arab World.

Fadi Gharib said the workers would then distribute leaflets to the passengers explaining that move was to counter the embargo against Iraq.

Organisers said that the conference will issue a memorandum to be signed by millions across the Arab World demanding the departure of foreign troops from the Gulf and calling on the Arab states which have sent troops to Saudi Arabia to reconsider their decision.

Participants said that Arab political parties will concentrate their efforts on increasing contacts with popular organisations in the states which have lined up with Washington to increase the pressure on their governments.

During Sunday's afternoon session, the floor was given to participants as well as audience to make suggestions. Some members of the audience criticised the lack of Arab studies and plans necessary to organise a strong Arab popular movement.

In the morning session, North African delegates called for a dialogue between Arab and European political parties to explain the Arab viewpoint. They also proposed that a delegation comprised of representatives of leftist parties start a dialogue with Moscow.

It was unclear Sunday if JAND was going ahead with a mass rally which was scheduled to be held at the Sports City Monday afternoon to crown the three-day conference.

In their appeal to the meeting, leaders of the uprising urged Syria to withdraw troops it deployed in Saudi Arabia.

They called on Egyptians and Moroccans to oppose their gov-

ernment's decisions to send troops and appealed to the Arab masses to volunteer for military service to support Iraq and set up a special aid fund.

A Sudanese delegate to the conference called for commando raids against U.S. forces.

"We are ready to join the Iraqi popular army as volunteers and to carry out commando operations against American forces," said Abdullah Al Hassan of the General Union of Sudanese Democratic Youth.

A Palestinian delegate to the conference urged the Arab masses to make speedy moves in the regional and international arenas to warn of the consequences of a conflict in the Gulf region and said that attempts should be made by Arab states to make it clear that any aggression on Iraq would engulf the whole Arab Nation.

Abbas Zaki, member of the Central Committee of Fateh, said the multinational force had started deployment in Saudi Arabia in July and after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait as Israel and the West began to feel the need to stem the Iraqi military and technological might.

Zaki said tribute to Jordan for its steadfastness in the face of continued pressure despite its economic hardships and said that the Palestinian people back Jordan in this steadfastness and back Iraq's attempt to abort international conspiracies.

Another speaker at Sunday's session was Dr. Masoud Al Shabbi who said that the massing of foreign troops in the Gulf reflects the Western fears of a united Arab World and an Arab might, and manifests the West's hatred of the Arab Nation.

Abdul Majid Al Rafi from Lebanon said that Iraq was taking a heroic stand in the face of the dangers posed to the Arab Nation and in the face of the "American invasion." He said that the Arab masses support Iraq's efforts to repel aggression and end the foreign presence on Arab land.

Levy to set Israeli terms before Europe

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will ask the European Community (EC) to stop using its economic clout to force Israel into "concessions" towards the Palestinians, a foreign ministry official said Sunday.

Levy will raise the issue when he visits Brussels Monday for talks with representatives of the 12-nation trading bloc, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In July, "EC leaders visiting" Israel told Levy crucial economic concessions to Israel could depend on Israeli progress towards peace with the Palestinians.

"We would like to insist that there will be a total separation between economic and political issues," the official said.

"We understand that there are differences of opinion on political

issues and we are discussing those differences openly and willingly with the community," he added.

European leaders have recommended an international peace conference on the Middle East, including representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Three EC foreign ministers visited Israel in July and expressed concern over the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The EC took steps against Israel including suspending a joint scientific project and postponing the visit of a EC commissioner.

"Levy will... make clear that all attempts to use economic pressure politically will not succeed," the foreign ministry official said.

Mossad book publisher's office ransacked in Canada

TORONTO (R) — The offices of the publisher of a new book on the Israeli intelligence service, which the Jewish state is trying to ban, were broken into overnight, the publisher said Saturday.

"All the executives' files were opened and the desks were pried open," said Sally Tindall, spokeswoman with Stoddart Publishing Inc.

She said the break-in Friday night was connected with the book, "This is too much of a coincidence."

Toronto police told the Canadian Press news agency there was a break-in but gave no further information other than that there had been no arrests and the investigation was continuing.

The publishing firm had concealed key files relating to the book, "By Way of Deception," in case of such a break-in, Tindall said.

Only a petty cash box appeared to have been stolen.

Ostrovsky's book alleges, among other things, that the Israeli Mossad intelligence service knew extremists were planning a 1983 attack on an American target in Lebanon before 241 Marines were killed by a suicide bomber, but withheld the information to sour U.S.-Arab relations.

It also charges that the Mossad knew where U.S. hostages in Lebanon were being held but refused to tell the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The book was due to be published in Canada next month. Israel earlier obtained a court order blocking distribution in Ontario and the matter is to be reviewed at a hearing on Monday.

A New York court Thursday rejected an Israeli demand to ban the books, which Israel says endangers the lives of its agents.

Ostrovsky, who was born in Canada but worked for the Mossad from 1984 to 1986, is now in hiding after a visit at his home in Ottawa by two high-ranking Israeli agents.

Israeli news reports have focused on discrediting the former spy. Newspapers have quoted former personal associates who portrayed him as a cunning schemer with a wild imagination who picked up on rumours and was driven by greed.

According to excerpts in the

Sunday Times, Mossad agents used sex and money to lure an Israeli scientist into giving them the plans and location of a French-built nuclear reactor outside Baghdad so Israel could bomb and destroy it in 1981.

"Publication of excerpts of the book marked the second time the British newspaper has splashed alleged Israeli security secrets on its front page."

In 1986 it published claims by Mordechai Vanunu, a former Israeli nuclear technician, that the Jewish state had stockpiled atomic bombs. Vanunu is now serving a 16-year jail sentence in Israel for treason and espionage.

The Sunday Times quoted Ostrovsky's book as saying a secret Mossad cell of 27 agents gathers intelligence information in the United States.

The book also alleges that Mossad runs more than 2,000 "sayanim," or Jewish volunteer helpers, in London and that others are active in Paris.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the book was "all lies."

Shamir, in a Jerusalem Post interview published Sunday, attacked Ostrovsky and defended Israel for trying to ban the book in Canada and the United States.

"The whole book was written with evil intentions. I believe everything written there is based on bad will and lies, with the intention to hurt Israel," Shamir said.

Asked if Israel withheld information about the Beirut bombing on an apparent bid to sour U.S.-Arab relations or operated a super-secret spy ring in the United States, as the book alleges, Shamir said: "It is all lies."

Ostrovsky told the Israeli newspaper Maariv last week he wrote the book not only to make money but also to try to bring about change in the Mossad which he said needed supervision.

Senior sources told the Post that Shamir, a former Mossad operative, gave final approval to Israel's strategy of going to court over the book.

An Israeli parliamentary subcommittee has summoned the current Mossad head to an urgent meeting this week to report on the affair.

Heath calls for deal with Baghdad

LONDON (AP) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is "no Hitler" and should be offered a deal to withdraw his troops from Kuwait, former Prime Minister Edward Heath said Sunday.

Heath argued in a television interview that concessions could be made without "rewarding" Iraq's decision to invade Kuwait.

He suggested a deal could be arranged through Arab mediation.

"I don't believe Saddam Hussein is a Hitler, in the sense that he is then going to have an overall conquest of a vast area of country. I think from the fact that we have produced a response in forces it is very clear to him that he is not able to do that," Heath said in an interview on London Weekend Television.

Asked whether offering some kind of concessions would be read as rewarding aggression, he said: "This can't possibly show him that aggression pays."

Heath, who was prime minister from 1970 to 1974, said the Cuban missile crisis between the United States and the Soviet Union offered a model for settling the current crisis.

U.S. President John F. Kennedy offered concessions to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to gain the withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba, Heath said.

"That avoided a possible Third World war and nobody blamed Kennedy for this, everybody said it showed remarkable constraint and a constructive approach," Heath said.

"If you follow the Kennedy example, you don't rub their noses in the dirt. He didn't wish Khrushchev and the result was that Khrushchev had a lot of respect for him afterwards."

It was essential that any deal was struck through Arab mediation, with U.N. and Western forces remaining in place in the region, Heath said.

Heath suggested that possible concessions could involve Kuwaiti islands claimed by Iraq, or the debts owed by Iraq to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Heath has frequently been at odds with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who defeated him in an election for Conservative Party leadership in 1975.

Iraq refutes Bush assertions

(Continued from page 1)

tion" to the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

"Our only object is to resist the invasion ordered by Saddam Hussein on Aug. 2," he said according to the simultaneous Arabic translation read over Bush's voice.

"Kuwait was the victim and Iraq the aggressor," he said.

The lengthy television commentary which followed immediately after Bush's address called him a liar and accused him of trying to undermine Iraq's support for their president.

The commentary, read by a television announcer, said Bush wanted to be "dictator of the whole world."

"Bush believes the whole world is ready for a new world order, an order in which the

United States is the sole leader," the announcer said.

Bush's statement added: "World public opinion has never before been this united against aggression."

He said Iraq had made a mistake in invading Kuwait and termed Baghdad's actions "monstrous."

He also pointed to Iraq's huge losses as a result of the United Nations embargo against Baghdad, which he said was costing it \$20 million a day.

The Iraqi announcer reiterated Baghdad's insistence that it would not withdraw from Kuwait, which was historically part of Iraq and had been split from it by British imperialism.

Kuwait had also been stealing Iraqi oil, he said.

"The people of Iraq are a great

people and they have a great civilisation and a great history," he added.

"They never violated any country or its sovereignty and it is naive of Bush to think that he can foster differences between the people of Iraq and their president."

"The president is the son of the Iraqi people. He is not a leader that was created by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)," he added.

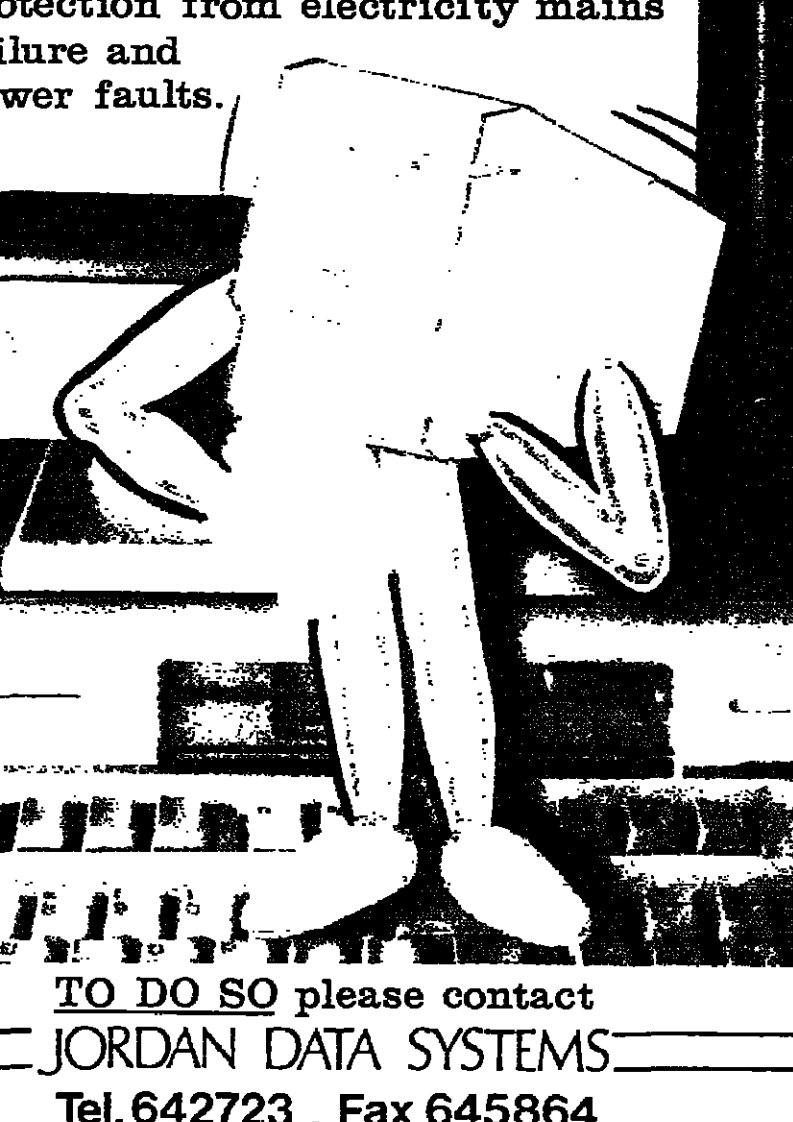
"He is a fighter and he is part of the heart of the Iraqi people, who love him and respect him. He has always been a defender of peace and sovereignty."

The spokesman said Westerners and other foreigners who had left Kuwait since Iraq's invasion had done so not because of Iraq but because of U.S. threats of war.

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The unallowed nation

By Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas

WHY is the image of the Arabs so bad in the West? Why are the Arabs associated with violence and aggression? Why do the Arabs periodically produce "villains" like Nasser, King Faisal, Qadhafi and Saddam Hussein? Why do they play with chemical weapons and are trying to have atomic weapons too? All these are pertinent questions that itch the brain of Westerners and some Arabs — especially during these times of doubts and uncertainties.

Despite claims to the contrary, the above picture remains to be true. To the average Western mind, the Arabs are trouble makers. They disturb his orderly system, shake his quiet world, threaten his way of life and interrupt his stream of profits. They are an annoyance. In particular, the Westerner is deeply upset, and completely astonished why the Arabs don't understand things the way he does.

To help the West understand why the Arabs are like that, one has to invoke some basic facts.

When the Arabs opened their eyes 50 years ago, they discovered some hard realities: First, that they had oil in their land which was highly vital to the industrial West. Second, that they had an enemy on their land who was fully supported by the West.

On the other hand the West realised a few realities of their own: First, there was plenty of oil which happened to be owned by bedouins who were ignorant, but intelligent. And second, that bedouin's oil could be purchased very cheaply.

The West bought bedouin's oil at a very cheap price, and started forming expensive personal and industrial habits built on the assumption that bedouins will remain bedouins, and oil will continue to flow cheap.

To insure permanency of this favourable situation, it was extremely necessary to keep the owners of this God-sent treasure, weak, forever threatened, ignorant and vitally dependent on the West. It was essential to condition the Arabs to say "yes sir" every time the West winked.

To achieve this, the West helped implant a complexed enemy in the middle of the Arab's holy land, thus insuring the presence of a permanent threat. Consequently, the Arab's energy and concern shifted towards the moral task of regaining their occupied land and containing the new threat.

Confrontation was inevitable. It occurred in 1948 and was fought with weapons pre-

viously purchased from the West by the corrupt king of Egypt. Those arms fired backward, and the Arabs lost. Nasser was then a young officer who fought in those battles and felt the painful facts. When the dust settled down, there were some logical conclusions could not be avoided.

We are facing a strong enemy supported by the West.

This enemy occupied and annexed our land under the open eyes of the world. To regain our land, we would have to enter a new battle.

To win, we would have to be strong.

To be strong, we should build our military strength, and get rid of corrupt leadership.

Nasser toppled Farouk, but when he came to buy arms from the West, he was not allowed. When he attempted to build the high dam in order to decrease his food dependence on the West, he was not allowed. And when he tried to Egyptianise the Egyptian Suez Canal, he broke loose and the West invaded his land.

All his attempts at building self strength, starting self dependence and establishing self dignity were strongly opposed. However, a seed was planted. The late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was a pro-Western.

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came a humiliating and corrupt procedure. Use of weapons was always conditioned. A chemical factory in Libya was burned down because of its potentials, and Qadhafi was warned by a direct American air raid that killed his child. Saddam's military industry was tolerated as long as it was directed against Iran, but when he tried to match the Israelis' nuclear potential, he was raided and his nuclear reactor was devastated.

Transfer of technology was a taboo. The Arabs were not allowed to learn, but encouraged to unsophisticated technology. Complete dependence on the West for spare parts was firmly established.

Food cartel of the West kept a low profile, but was and is the most solid and most dangerous cartel in the history of the world, so much that "hungerisation" became an effective alternative to destructive weapons. By using certain economic formulae, the West made us believe that the best thing we could do with our fertile land is to neglect it. The Arabs are now dependent on the West for 70 per cent of their food.

Economically, the Arabs, who own all this oil, are supposed to be the richest nation on earth, yet they are not only

in debt, but still without a solid infrastructure. Ironically, the largest share of their money is in Western banks, helping Western economies and paying for wasteful Western habits. On top, the West can block it any time.

Worse still, is the way the Arabs are made to spend their efforts and energies. Every time they come near solving one problem, one more erupts. A great effort is spent on verbal battles or on unwinnable battles. Instead of building life, they spend effort fighting death.

After 40 years, few conclusions were conceived as facts in the Arab World. One: It is in the interest of the West to keep the guardians of oil militarily weak, economically flaccid, technologically ignorant, geopolitically dispersed, gastronomically dependent, and politically corrupt.

Two: The West would go to any extent and would use any

method including military invasion to keep the Arabs at the stage they found them in: ignorant bedouins.

Three: Sporadic terrorism did not lead us anywhere near gaining our legitimate rights, nor did civilised moderation.

Harvesting all this frustration over the last 40 years, cleared the ground for fundamentalism and radicalism. Few things have become very clear: If you want to do anything, do not take the permission of the West, they will not allow you. Do not pay too much attention to the West's opinion: it did not pay attention to yours. Reverse the old pattern of explaining then acting, to acting then explaining. Do not be scared to lose: there is not much to lose. Moderation does not work. Extremism is all that has remained.

A kind of world madness is now prevailing. A madness created by the lack of explanation of why cannot 200 million Arabs with their oil balance 5 million Israelis on the American scale of interest? And why does American prefer commands to asking when dealing with nations who are ready to give? And why can not the West understand that the Arabs are no more the bedouins they were?

Observation of some schizophrenic behaviour can not pass unnoticed. The West and particularly the United States strongly condemn terrorism, but does not help moderation. It preaches diplomacy, but practises forces and military deployment. Asks for concessions and then ignores them. Takes decades to notice a resolution and days to implement some other resolutions. If Saddam Hussein is crazy, what do you call sending massive troops to hell by a leader who is vacationing?

Some sanity is needed. It can very well start by allowing the Arabs to regain their legitimate rights.

When the Berlin Wall fell last November, Mitterrand erred in publicly judging German unity as "not on the agenda for today". His standing at home subsequently slumped, helped by squabbling in his socialist party over economic policy.

France felt politically sidelined, and economically threatened, by the potential power of a united Germany in a radically changed Europe after the Cold War era. Some critics said Mitterrand, at 73, was too tied to the past to learn how to command the emerging new political order.

But the "gulf factor" has checked that impression. "Mitterrand wants to be present on all levels... To be seen acting more often, sometimes dramatically, sometimes serenely," a leading business newsletter said.

He foresaw a crisis lasting up to six months, resulting in negotiations and a "new deal of the cards in the middle east" at which France was determined to be present, it said.

While West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had to apologise that the constitution prevented German forces going to the Gulf, Mitterrand backed the United States with 14 warships, 9,000 men and nearly 50 helicopters to enforce the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

The president held three lengthy news conferences on the crisis in August, a record for a leader often criticised for aloofness. His aim was to assure the nation he was at the helm as the world entered what he called "the logic of war".

"We have an intervention force second only to that of the United States and well ahead of the others," he said last week. France was one of the big five powers on the Security Council,

and was in direct contact with the White House and the Kremlin and, as president of a nuclear power, bore special personal responsibility for world peace, Mitterrand said.

He displays a brand of statesmanship France appreciates, combining Gaullist independence with international solidarity. The message is that France is neither in thrall to the U.S. nor allergic to the Soviet Union, that it is not afraid of the option of war, and it belongs with the major powers.

France would intervene "in the case of fresh aggression by Iraq" in the Gulf but otherwise "has no intention of exceeding the U.N. Security Council mandate," Mitterrand has said.

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Gulf crisis pushes NATO towards major change

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO could assume a much wider world role in the wake of the Gulf crisis and as the Soviet Union becomes a partner rather than a threat.

During the cold war, the 16-nation alliance regarded regional conflicts and problems outside the territory of its member nations as little more than side shows.

But it was made clear at a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels on Monday that the alliance could soon take a much more active global role because of the enormous economic and strategic implications of the Gulf crisis.

"You have a new challenge which clearly affects the security of our member nations," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a news conference after the meeting.

"We have to consider how to take the consequences, which lessons to draw... It is clear that we have a lot to think about."

The question he was asked — would NATO change its 1949 founding charter to enable the avowedly defensive alliance to intervene militarily outside its

own area? — would have brought a firm "no" just a few months ago.

This time the answer was different.

Although any change in NATO's fundamental principles is not likely to come quickly, and would be highly controversial with some members, other prominent officials have been blunt.

NATO's supreme commander in Europe, U.S. General John Galvin, said in a newspaper interview on Monday that the alliance would have to take a more "all-encompassing view of things" now that the cold war was over.

"The structure, the machinery for meeting a crisis, will have to be reexamined and strengthened," he told Britain's Financial Times.

NATO's integrated military command structure has at its disposal a sleek military machine that now faces a non-existent enemy in Europe.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said recently that NATO must take on more "out of area" defence responsibilities and that the United States, the alliance's senior member, was tired of being "the world's policeman."

U.S. officials have tried hard to

convince everyone that they are happy with allied support for Washington's military buildup in the Gulf.

But the fact remains that most NATO members, with the exception of Britain and France, have committed precious little in terms of military muscle, despite the latest appeal from Washington for troops, air and sea transport.

What is more, the U.S. media and public are becoming increasingly angry at what they see as a refusal by their allies to shoulder more of the financial and military burden.

Any serious discussion of changes to NATO's military role would provoke a serious row within the alliance, and Woerner stressed that the time was not yet ripe to draw the lessons from the Gulf crisis.

France, joined by Spain and some other allies, has already expressed serious reservations about NATO taking on an expanded military role in the post-cold war era. France is not a member of NATO's integrated military command.

But Iraq's invasion of Kuwait more than a month ago has brought home to NATO that threats to its security do not have

to come in the form of Soviet tank divisions.

Stock markets in the West have tumbled, oil prices have rocketed, suddenly bringing the spectre of recession to many of the world's most powerful economies.

Moreover, many governments are worried that Iraq may be only a few years away from acquiring nuclear arms, and that it has already used chemical weapons against its Kurdish minority.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told reporters that international measures should be strengthened to deny Iraq and other countries "weapons of mass destruction."

NATO diplomats and officials said one possibility could be for the alliance to set up a body to try and control the spread of such military technology, possibly with the Soviet Union.

"There is no doubt that the 'out of area' role we play is going to be one of the major questions, if not the major question, of the next few years," said one NATO official.

Samaranch calls for Olympic truce

TOKYO (R) — Olympic Games chief Juan Antonio Samaranch called Sunday for an "Olympic truce" to bring peace to the world.

Speaking at the formal opening of the 96th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Samaranch predicted that the Olympic movement founded in 1894 would in the next century become a forum for peaceful dialogue between nations.

"During its second century of existence Olympism will, I am convinced, become the privileged forum for the encounter, reflection and action of the rising forces in our world," the IOC president told delegates.

"By establishing between them a kind of Olympic truce in keeping with the needs and hopes of our time, these rising forces could come together beneath the sym-

bol of the five inter-linked rings to make a reality of those values... freedom, the greater welfare of all, solidarity and peace."

Samaranch made no direct reference to moves to ban Iraq from the forthcoming Asian Games in Peking because of its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The IOC has expressed support for the Kuwaiti National Olympic Committee which is in exile in Saudi Arabia and Samaranch paid tribute to Sheikh Fahd Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti IOC member who was killed during the invasion.

Fahd, a member of the Kuwaiti royal family, was a prominent international sports leader and Samaranch said: "His sudden death at the height of his powers is, for us, a great loss most sorely

felt."

Samaranch expressed support for national Olympic committees (NOCs) in Eastern Europe.

"In these troubled times, far be it from us to pass the slightest judgment on the highly complex political problems which are still evolving rapidly as we watch," he said.

But he added: "The Olympic movement is naturally concentrating its efforts on actively supporting the NOCs of the countries concerned."

Sports leaders from seven East European countries visited the IOC's Swiss headquarters earlier this year for talks with Samaranch.

The IOC president has set up a panel to study the future of sports organisations in the Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and

Estonia, which are seeking independence from the Soviet Union.

On South Africa's projected return to the Olympic movement, Samaranch said: "One of our major concerns remains the victory over apartheid in sport."

"Ultimately, the solution will have to come from our African friends themselves. But 1990 has seen an easing of the situation and we shall all be happy and proud to witness the day when South African athletes rejoin their fellows from all over the world at the Olympic Games."

On the problem of doping, Samaranch said some progress had been made but "perhaps not as rapid as we might have wished. We must take care that practical solutions are not buried beneath an avalanche of good intentions and soothing words."

Barcelona retains lead in Spanish 1st division

MADRID (R) — Barcelona stayed top of Spanish soccer's first division Saturday with a 3-2 away victory over newly-promoted Real Betis while Real Madrid rebounded from defeat last weekend with a 3-0 home win over Real Mallorca.

Aitor Beguiristain, Khristo Stoichkov and Ronald Koeman put a clearly superior Barcelona 3-0 up in the first half. But the league leaders were jolted after the interval when Betis struck two goals in as many minutes.

Beguiristain gave Barcelona the lead in the 10th minute when he took a pass from Juan Goicoechea and shot home strongly.

Seventeen minutes later Beguiristain passed to Jose Bakero who headed the ball down for Bulgarian striker Stoichkov to score with a low shot.

Dutch defender Koeman, who — like Stoichkov — scored in last Sunday's 3-1 win over Valencia, netted the third with a powerful free-kick just before the interval.

Betis, kept at bay throughout the first half, pulled one back in the 77th minute when Antonio Valentin surprised Barcelona's

World Cup goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta with a header.

Jose Mel added a second for the Seville club two minutes later but Barcelona held on to secure both points and maintain the only 100 per cent record in the league after three games.

Real Madrid, beaten by Sevilla last weekend, failed to breach the Real Mallorca defence for nearly an hour.

Hugo Sanchez, winner of the Golden Boot Award last season as the most prolific marksman in Europe, broke the deadlock after 58 minutes, pouncing after the Mallorca goalkeeper had failed to control a shot by Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi.

Emilio Butragueno scored nine minutes later and Mexican striker Sanchez added his second and Real's third in the 77th minute.

Rafael Gordillo, Real Madrid's international midfielder, had a miserable jubilee outing in his 400th league match, going off after just two minutes with a knee injury.

He will miss the European Cup first round first leg match against Odense in Denmark next week, the club's doctor said.

Marseille turns French League into a procession

PARIS (R) — Champions Marseille began to turn the French Soccer League into a procession with an accomplished 2-0 away win against Toulouse which put them four points clear at the top of the table.

England winger Chris Waddle and the inevitable marksman Jean-Pierre Papin struck in each half to give Marseille both points in their last game before new technical director Franz Beckenbauer joins them Tuesday.

With the two teams immediately behind them failing to win, Auxerre leapfrogged into second place with a 1-0 away victory in Sochaux thanks to a 49th-minute goal from stopper William Prunier.

They have 12 points and are four behind Marseille, the only unbeaten side in the league after nine games.

Marseille looked to have a tricky fixture in their last match under the leadership of Gerard Gili, who becomes Beckenbauer's assistant next week.

They had not won in Toulouse in six years and the hosts had handed them their first defeat last season.

But a magnificent curling shot by Waddle from well outside the area in the 25th minute put the

visitors on the way and Papin clinched it with his seventh goal of the season nine minutes after the break, tapping in a Laurent Fournier cross.

Caen, who had been second, slipped with a 3-2 defeat away to Paris St Germain (PSG) and suffered the frustration of seeing home goalkeeper Joel Bats save a second-half penalty from Dutchman Piet Den Boer.

Yugoslav World Cup pair Zlatko Vujovic and Safet Susic both got on the score-sheet for PSG, who conceded a second penalty a minute from the final whistle, this time converted by Fabrice Divert.

Caen dropped to third on 11 points ahead on goal difference of Monaco, who drew 0-0 in Nice Friday.

Newly-promoted Nancy got off the bottom of the table thanks to a 3-2 win over Nantes with Soviet former Juventus player Alexander Zavarov hitting the winner and also his first goal for his new club.

Rennes, the other promoted club, replaced Nancy at the foot of the table after a 2-1 home defeat by Montpellier, the visitors' first away win in more than two years.

Australian wins 500 cc motorcycle Grand Prix

PHILLIP ISLAND, Australia (R) — Wayne Gardner and Mick Doohan scored a double home triumph for Australia when they took the first two places on Hondas in the final 500 cc Motorcycle Grand Prix of the season Sunday.

It was a repeat victory for last year's winner Gardner but the first time since 1949 that two Australians had scored a one-two in a Grand Prix.

Gardner, who completed the 30 laps in 47 minutes 45.053 seconds was less than a second ahead of Doohan at the finish. American Wayne Rainey on a Yamaha, who had already won the World Championship, finished third.

Championship runner-up Kevin Schwantz of the United States suffered a spectacular fall in the closing stages while chasing Gardner on his Suzuki but was not seriously injured.

Doohan, who two weeks ago achieved his first Grand Prix win in Hungary, finished third in the championship standings.

Gardner, still troubled by injury after breaking a bone in his wrist earlier in the season, was pressured throughout by Doohan but managed to hold him off.

"With my wrist hurting I nearly gave up a couple of times but in the end I did it," he said.

Last year's champion, American Eddie Lawson, finished fourth after a slow start on his Yamaha and Britain's Niall Mackenzie, riding a Suzuki, was fifth.

Earlier, American John Kocinski won the 250 cc race to clinch his first World Championship and 17-year-old Loris Capirossi of Italy became the world's youngest motorcycle champion with victory in the 125 cc event.

Athens is still the key to 1996 Olympic conundrum

TOKYO (R) — With 48 hours to go before the vote for the 1996 Olympic host city, clear forecasts of the outcome are about as rare as a meatball in a sushi bar.

The 3,000 members of the so-called Olympic family jammed into Tokyo's vast Takanawa Hotel complex have been in a ferment of speculation in recent days about the destination of the games.

While the high priests of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board have gone about their formal business, the rank and file have been trying to pick a winner among the six cities bidding for the games.

But the only thing everyone can agree on is that this is one of the closest bidding contests since the modern Olympics began in 1896.

The six candidates entered for Tuesday's ballot are Athens, Atlanta, Belgrade, Manchester, Melbourne and Toronto, but the key to the conundrum is Athens.

Some IOC members believe the Greek capital may be unbeatable because of its ancient Olympic traditions and the symbolism of returning the games to the scene of their rebirth 100 years ago. The IOC is strong on symbolism.

Others, less traditionalist in their outlook, see Athens as a rank outsider because of the city's problems with pollution, infrastructure, and political instability, although Greek officials naturally say all these difficulties can and will be overcome.

Athens officials have conducted a more or less successful damage control exercise by dropping previous claims that the games should be theirs by right.

At the same time there is a distinct feeling among rival cities that the Greeks have mounted an excessively hard sell. Athens's rivals deny this is sour grapes.

The Athens delegation pulled off a minor public relations coup Sunday by inviting all 15,000 athletes and team officials on a three-day post-games cruise around the Greek islands if

Athens gets the nod.

But the announcement was intended largely as a goodwill gesture rather than a serious attempt to influence the IOC vote.

Only Atlanta among the six cities appears to have picked up any significant momentum in recent days, although there could still be a lack of enthusiasm at the prospect of taking the games back to the United States so soon after the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Few are willing to discount Melbourne and Toronto, although Manchester is given little chance. Belgrade is given none at all.

Eighty-seven IOC members are expected to be present for Tuesday's secret ballot, although President Juan Antonio Samaranch will not vote.

The day's proceedings will get under way with one-hour presentations by each candidate before IOC members hear reports by various commissions sent to evaluate the six cities.

The ballot is scheduled to begin around 6:45 p.m. (0945 GMT) with the candidate receiving the fewest votes eliminated after each round.

To help members keep track of proceedings, "ballot" papers for each round will be a different colour.

Rounds will continue as necessary until one candidate achieves victory with a simple majority of 44 votes.

The key element in the voting pattern is expected to be the number of votes Athens can attract on the first ballot.

A number of IOC members feel a reasonable showing for Athens in the first round could serve as a platform on which to build a winning total. Others have suggested the Greek capital could make an exit on the second or third ballot.

At 8:47 p.m. (1147 GMT) Samaranch will open a sealed envelope containing the result and announce the winner via a live satellite video hook-up with the bidding cities.

Crystal Palace lies in wait for the big names

LONDON (R) — The experts who argue that English League soccer is in danger of becoming predictable were looking smug Saturday.

With less than a month of the new season gone, the wealthy names of Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal and Tottenham were already to be found at the top of the table, all seeming good bets to prosper throughout the wet, muddy English winter.

Nobody, as usual, has paid much attention to Crystal Palace, F.A. Cup finalists last May but traditionally as fashionable as a tweed jacket in a discotheque.

That might have changed Saturday when Palace had the chance to lead the first division for the first time since 1979 assuming they beat Nottingham Forest.

In the event they could only draw 2-2 requiring an equaliser with five minutes to go from Geoff Thomas to earn a point. It was hardly the stuff of potential champions but, for Palace, it may prove merely a temporary setback.

Twelve months ago this week, the club were the laughing stock of British football.

They had just been beaten 9-0 by Liverpool at Anfield and crept back to London wondering what further misfortunes awaited them.

Their revival since that black day shows why Steve Coppell, the former England winger, is regarded as one of the best managers in the country.

The shrewd Coppell has built an impressive side around talented individuals like Ian Wright, Andy Gray and England

squad goalkeeper Nigel Martyn and is now waiting to discover if his men can trouble the bigger clubs on a regular basis.

Palace's failure to go top Saturday, he believes, could prove a blessing in disguise.

"I think it's stupid all this talk about us going top," he said. "It would have been nice if we had gone top, nothing more. I was satisfied with one point today."

Coppell's old club, Manchester United can also have more optimism than for several years.

A lofty league position and a return to European competition this week have left manager Alex Ferguson admitting he feels more comfortable than at almost any time in his reign at Old Trafford.

No-one, however, performed more impressively this weekend than Arsenal in their 4-1 win over Chelsea.

Manager George Graham sung the praises of Swede Anders Limpar and suggested he could become a key figure in the title race.

"He's a match-winner, there's no question about that," he said of Limpar, signed from Italian side Cremonese after the World Cup. "Anders is the one I'll look to for that little bit of magic and inspiration to unlock defences."

Arsenal's delight contrasted with less appealing scenes in Scotland at the Edinburgh Derby match between Hibernian and Hearts.

Dozens of people were arrested and the match was twice halted by crowd trouble prompted by Hearts' controversial takeover bid for their rivals earlier in the year.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An unusual matter, probably of a romantic nature, will arise to give you a much needed lift and there will be no complications to cause you any regrets or recriminations.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can note how to do these things during the daytime that will add to value of your property and possessions while tonight you can be off to visit close friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can join with those who are experienced at ways to gain your personal desires during the daytime but tonight listen to the advice of a money expert.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Daytime is fine for planning just what you are going to do regarding personal matters during the coming days, then let associates know of your wishes.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Close companions of definite views can aid you to formulate a campaign of action for the future; tonight get the assistance from a close companion.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be off to get any support possible from a bigwig with power to release to you and then you can join with friends with the same interests as yourself.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Be on the lookout for all kinds of information you can utilize from

new sources; then you can study way to use this data in a worldly activity.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) During the daytime you can reach a new understanding in practical channels with your attachment but tonight be off to new scenes to increase contacts.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Public matters to be done can best be the object of your daytime focus while at night there are many problems requiring discussing and solving.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Spend the daytime analyzing your views and responsibilities and devise a plan for attending to them while tonight get out in the world at action.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The daytime is fine for enjoying the outlets which usually bring you the greatest amount of pleasure; then tonight get to work you really like to perform.

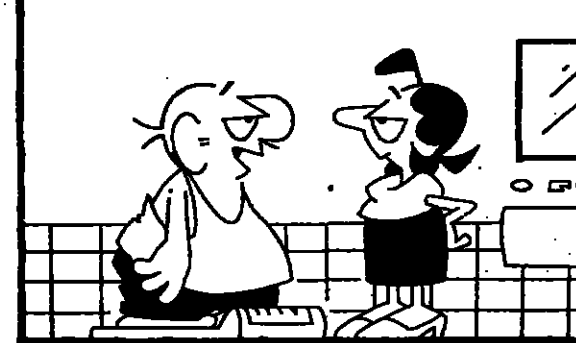
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Stay at home during the day and get everything into apple order there while in the evening you can be off to appealing entertainments.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Do as much dashing around and seeing as many close relatives, neighbours, other contacts during the day but be at home and enjoy your family tonight.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

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"I'm gonna keep my weight. You never know when fat might become fashionable again!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

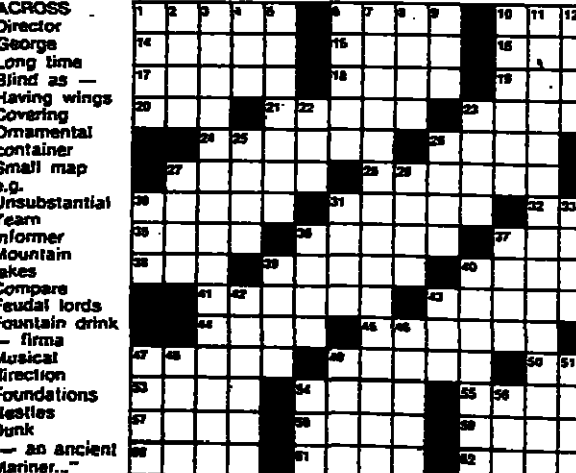
Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: PURGE DUCHY BODILY LATEST

Answer: How did the heavy drinker fit into that party? — TIGHTLY

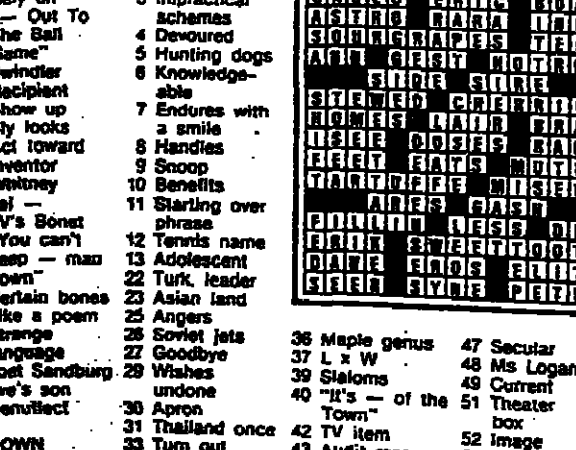
THE Daily Crossword

by Craig Schultz



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAR HIRSCH

© 1990 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

A TOUCH OF LARCENY

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 6
♥ 8 6
♦ 10 6 3
♣ A J 10 9

WEST ♠ 10 9 7 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ 7 5 3 ♣ A Q 9 4

EAST ♠ A J 10 4 ♥ A Q 9 4 ♦ Q 7 3 ♣ 5 4 2

SOUTH ♠ J R 4 ♥ K Q 9 2 ♦ K 7 2 ♣ K 8 6

The bidding: North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of

Sometimes you look at all four hands and wonder how declarer was able to make his contract, or how he happened to go down a trick, or two in a contract that was "on ice."

The reason should be obvious—at the table, only two hands are visible. See what a difference that can make on this hand from a national championship event.

The auction was routine. For those purists who feel that South was a point short for his jump, declarer felt his jack in partner's suit should be upgraded. Indeed, it proved to be worth a trick.

West led a top-of-nothing heart.

and when East rose with the ace it would seem that declarer had nine tricks for the taking—four spades, two hearts and two clubs off the top, with a "sure" trick in diamonds should the opponents attack that suit.

That is exactly what East did, except that declarer found the devilish shift to the queen of diamonds! Declarer, a many-time national champion, played low, and followed low again when East continued with the four—naturally, if East held the jack, dummy's ten would force the ace from West.

West did win the trick, but it was with the jack. The diamond continuation was automatic, and an embarrassed South saw East rise with the ace to tell the king, then cash the nine of diamonds for a one-trick set.

Can you imagine South's chagrin when the scores were posted. There, for the world to see, was the fact that he had been defeated in a contract that was made, sometimes with overtricks, by every other declarer!

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Bankers expect Gulf crisis to bring a boon for Egypt

CAIRO (R) — The Gulf crisis could prove a boon for Egypt's stagnant economy, with new loans promised by Gulf Arab and Western states and the IMF relaxing demands for economic reforms, bankers said Sunday.

"Money is promised to Egypt from everywhere and will start pouring in soon," a Gulf-based banker said.

Egypt will be hit by loss of remittances from its citizens working in Iraq of hundreds of millions of dollars a year, and by the return of hundreds of thousands of them destitute and jobless.

A slump in tourism, loss of trade with Iraq and Kuwait and a drop in Suez Canal traffic will also hurt.

But diplomats say Egypt's tough stance against Iraq's takeover of Kuwait has won sympathy from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and other Western creditors as well as Gulf states.

The state-run newspaper Al Akhbar reported Friday that the IMF had accepted Cairo's demand for a gradual devaluation of the pound, rather than in one jolting drop.

It also agreed to an Egyptian

plan to give banks more freedom to set interest rates on loans, though still under a 22 per cent ceiling, the paper said.

The IMF and Egypt have been locked in two years of difficult negotiations for an economic reform plan that would open the door to fresh funds for development and talks on rescheduling Cairo's \$50 billion foreign debt.

Several regional and international funds, together with Saudi Arabia, the United States, Japan, the European Community and Kuwait's toppled government, have promised Egypt financial aid to make up for revenue lost through a U.N. trade ban against Iraq and Kuwait.

"There is no dispute any more among Gulf Arabs that Egypt is their only (military) shield in the region and despite the problems in Egypt, they realise it is stable and has a system which works," the Gulf-based banker said.

Officials said private hard currency deposits in local banks by Egyptians and foreigners had soared since the takeover and bankers expect Gulf Arab investors to send more money to Egypt in a "risk distribution" strategy.

"They will invest in industry and consumer goods projects. It

will inject new life into the economy," an Egyptian banker said.

Egypt is one of Washington's closest Arab allies and a leader of Arab states opposed to the takeover of Kuwait. It has sent at least 5,000 troops to the Gulf to join the multinational force there and has promised thousands more.

President George Bush has proposed that Cairo's military debt to the United States of \$7.1 billion be written off. Diplomats expect France and perhaps Britain to follow suit or at least ease loan terms.

Some economists fear not all financial aid promised will materialise if the Gulf crisis is resolved. "It's the sugaring of the pill. It could all turn out to be a temporary arrangement and the IMF could later renew its tough stand," said Professor Murad Wahba.

About 250,000 Egyptian labourers have returned home from the crisis zone in the Gulf and officials expect hundreds of thousands more.

Two million Egyptians in all worked in Iraq and Kuwait and their remittances in the past helped finance food imports and service the foreign debt. Egypt's

55 million people import more than 60 per cent of their food.

But many Egyptians might now find work in other Gulf states, bankers said. Demand for Egyptians in Saudi Arabia had already risen 20 per cent since the takeover as Riyadh sought replacements for Palestinian and Jordanian workers.

The Gulf states have been angered by what they see as sympathy for Iraq from Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, diplomats said.

Bankers say Gulf-owned development funds will offer Egypt soft loans to help it cope with rising unemployment and a team of Egyptian ministers flew to Saudi Arabia last week to discuss investment in development projects that would create jobs.

Australia diverted wheat bound for Iraq to Egypt. Officials say the Gulf crisis has scared off some Western tourists, while Suez Canal revenue would drop in the long run due to the loss of Iraq and Kuwaiti business.

But shipping sources said the canal earned \$117.5 million last year, up from \$90 million a year earlier, helped by some 100 warships passing through to the Gulf region.

Iran blocks oil deal with Iraq by vowing not to raise output

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's pledge to stick to its OPEC oil output quota all but rules out any sanctions-busting deal with Iraq to barter oil for food and medicine, diplomats and oil analysts say.

They discounted reports that Iran has agreed to trade for up to 200,000 barrels per day of Iraqi oil.

"There is no advantage in it for Iran," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

Iran, pushing hard to regain international respectability and to improve ties with the West, would not want to be seen to be breaking the U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq, diplomats said.

Arab and Western oil analysts said any surge in Iran's output could easily be detected in an increasingly sophisticated market.

"Crudes are like fingerprints. Some traders can identify them by their mere colour or smell," a

Gulf-based U.S. trader said.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's wooing of the West, which is unanimously opposed to Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, would be scuttled by any attempt to help Baghdad.

"We have not heard anything about it," a Geneva-based consultant who has close links with Iran said.

"I also don't believe it," he added.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh has repeatedly said that Iran would not exceed its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota of 3.14 million barrels per day (b/d) and has urged other members to do the same.

He said the West should instead draw from its reserve stocks which are at their highest level in eight years.

Some oil industry executives

said one reason for Iran's call was to keep oil prices high. They have risen by 50 per cent since the start of the Gulf crisis and Azadeh said Thursday Tehran was earning an extra \$700 to \$800 million per month.

Iran is in dire need of foreign currency to revitalise and reconstruct its economy devastated by its 1980-88 Gulf war with Iraq.

But unlike its OPEC partners Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it lacked any spare output capacity to match its giant export facilities.

"Iran's OPEC (output) quota represents a maximum for its production," one executive in the Gulf said. "That is why they are asking OPEC not to raise output."

The pro-Rafsanjani Tehran Times said Thursday Iranian officials dismissed as "totally baseless" foreign media reports that Iran agreed to swap food and

medicine for Iraqi oil.

The reports have said that Iran would export up to 200,000 b/d of crude and petroleum products to Iraq by using its idle trucks before possibly linking up the two countries pipelines running close to the Tigris river.

Some reports suggested that Iran would use Iraqi oil for domestic consumption, while increasing its own crude oil exports.

Iran's oil production in July was 2.9 million b/d but the shortage in supplies caused by the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crudes helped it to push output to 3.2 million b/d in August, around its OPEC quota level.

Economists said bumper prices and increased exports have pushed Iran's oil revenues to more than \$60 million per day, calculated at a \$28 a barrel market price for its crude, from somewhere around \$40 million in July.

Soviet prime minister warns of consequences of radical reforms

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has said that radical reforms favoured by President Mikhail Gorbachev were fraught with dire consequences.

He also defended himself against calls for his resignation. He said his government was being attacked because it was sticking to its guns on maintaining a measured radical approach to overhaul outdated economic structures to avoid mass unemployment and social upheaval.

"The line of my government does not suit some people. What- ever is said of me, I will pursue my policies," he said. "The government is coming under pressure from all sides and this oversteps all the bounds."

The Communist Party daily Pravda has said that a special conciliation commission headed by leading economist Abel Aganbegyan had failed to produce a compromise reform programme.

Aganbegyan has criticised Ryzhkov's plan and accepted virtually all of a radical alternative plan proposed by a group of academics led by economist Stanislav Shatalin.

Gorbachev and Russian Federation leader Boris Yeltsin have put their weight behind the Shatalin plan which has already been approved by the parliament of the Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic.

The plan calls for introduction of market system within 18 to 24 months based on a mass sell-off of state resources and opening the economy to domestic and foreign competition.

Radicals have accused Ryzhkov of trying to maintain the country's top-heavy bureaucratic structures unable to provide the basis for the transition to market economics after seven decades of central planning.

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov, interviewed on the evening television news, repeated his call for Ryzhkov's resignation, saying his government "neither has nor had a plan for a real market, nor does it wish to have one."

"We are tired of empty shelves, of worthless money," he said. "We want no more crisis."

Popov, long an advocate of radical economic measures, denied what he said were unfounded rumours that Sunday's demonstration sought to attack Gorbachev.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Mauritius raises prices of oil products

PORT LOUIS (R) — The Indian Ocean state of Mauritius last week became the fifth African country to raise oil product prices because of the Gulf crisis. Trade and Shipping Minister Dwarkanath Gungah has said the government had approved rises of between 41 and 51 per cent. The top increase was for fuel oil — to 31 rupees (\$2.1) a gallon from 20.5 rupees (\$1.4). Petrol and kerosene rose by lesser amounts. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia have already increased oil prices and indicated further rises are likely.

Consumers give Coca-Cola high marks

NEW YORK (AP) — Coca-Cola touts itself as the real thing in its advertising, and consumers worldwide appear to have bought that line. The soft drink finished ahead of Sony, Mercedes-Benz and about 6,000 other brands in a new survey by the image consulting firm Landor Associates. The San Francisco-based marketing firm interviewed about 10,000 people in the United States, Japan and Western Europe, asking them to rate brands according to how familiar they were and how highly they thought of them. Trailing the top three brands in the global rankings were Kodak, Disney, Nestle, Toyota, McDonald's, IBA and Pepsi-Cola, according to the survey results. Twenty-three of the top 50 brands in the global survey are from the United States, 17 are European, nine are Japanese and one is from a company based in the United States and Europe. Coca-Cola had led a similar Landor survey conducted in late 1988. Coca-Cola also was rated the most powerful brand among U.S. consumers and among European consumers when results for those groups were compiled separately. Sony was rated as the most powerful among Japanese consumers.

Poland posts lowest inflation in 2 years

WARSAW (R) — Poland recorded its lowest monthly inflation rate in two years, a senior statistics official has said after consumer prices grew in August by 1.8 per cent. Krzysztof Lutostanski, a deputy president of the Central Statistical Office (GUS), told a news conference that the Polish economy was on the way to stabilisation after months of turmoil which saw a 27.5 per cent drop in industrial output and a similar fall in real wages since January. Production in August grew by 6.6 per cent compared to July in the highest month-on-month increase since the Solidarity-led government introduced austerity measures to brake hyperinflation and pave way for a Western-style free market economy. Lutostanski spoke at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned Poland it would stop providing credits if inflation or wages grew by more than 14 per cent each in the third quarter of this year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, September 16, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	125.2	126.0
U.S. dollar	657.0	661.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	480.7	483.6
Pound Sterling	1245.7	1253.2	Dutch guilder	372.1	374.3
Deutsche mark	419.2	421.7	Swedish crown	114.6	115.3
Swiss franc	307.6	310.6	Italian lira (for 100)	56.1	56.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	203.9	205.1

TODAY AT

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 671420
Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
in
1-KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45 (10:45 P.M.)
2-SENIOR WEEK
5:15, p.m.

Cinema **PIAZZA** Tel: 675571
Samir Ghanem, Ahmad Bdeir
in
KILL MY WIFE WITH THANKS
(Arabic)
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PIAZZA** Tel: 625155
Indiana Jones
in
TEMPLE OF DOOM
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **PIAZZA** Tel: 634144
Samir Ghanem, Ahmad Bdeir
in
KILL MY WIFE WITH THANKS
(Arabic)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PIAZZA** Tel: 699238
THE INNOCENT
(Arabic)
Starring
Ahmad Zaki, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Bundesbank issues first pan-German statistics

FRANKFURT (R) — The German central bank has issued the first economic data for all of Germany, nearly three weeks before the two countries merge.

The Bundesbank released trade, current account and capital account data for July, the month when East Germany adopted the strong Deutschmark as its own currency and the two countries fused their totally diverse economic systems.

"With the introduction of the Deutschmark into East Germany and the creation of a single German economic space... it no longer appeared sensible to issue balance of payments data for West Germany alone," the central bank said.

East Germany's transactions with foreign countries had only a negligible weighting in pan-German data and little impact on overall trends in July, the Bundesbank said.

The figures released showed that the two German states had a trade surplus of 9.92 billion marks (\$6.34 billion) in July, down from a West German surplus of 10.59 billion marks (\$6.76 billion) a year ago.

Turkey sees anti-Iraq stand facilitating release of World Bank loan

ANKARA (R) — Turkey believes its defiant stand against Iraq in the Gulf crisis has eased the way for release of a \$200 million loan from the World Bank, a senior treasury official has said.

"Turkey has already met many of the conditions required for the loan but its stand in the Gulf crisis has made it possible to get the loan by the end of this year," the official, who asked not to be named, told reporters.

Release of the financial sector adjustment loan, linked to \$200 million in co-financing from Japan, could help to remove any hesitancy on lending to Turkey as it grapples with an inflation-hit economy.

"Some members of the external foreign community are hesitant about lending to Turkey because of its economy. Release of the loan could remove adverse signals," one foreign banker said.

Senior Turkish officials will discuss the loan, remainder of \$400 million approved in 1988, at a regular meeting with the World Bank in Washington next week. President Turgut Ozal, who threw Turkey's weight behind U.N. sanctions against Iraq, will be in Washington at the same time to meet U.S. President George Bush.

Strikes cripple Greece

ATHENS (AP) — Greeks braced for a wave of strikes this week as blackouts due to striking public power company employees hit various parts of the country Sunday.

Greece's two biggest trade union federations have called a 48-hour general strike beginning Wednesday to protest the conservative government's decision to overhaul the debt-ridden state pension system. The two organisations have a total of about 1.3 million members.

OTE, the telecommunications organisation, PPC, the public power corporation and state-controlled banks, have been on strike for the past five days. Union officials said they will continue their industrial action throughout the coming week and perhaps beyond if the government doesn't withdraw proposed legislation "adversely" affecting their pension funds.

The Athens economic Daily Express said that the PPC has been accused of failing to leave skeleton staffs on duty during last Thursday's general walkout.

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S. Africa's Zulu, Xhosa tribal leaders jointly call for peace

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The king of the Zulus Sunday told thousands of armed supporters to "put out the flames of violence" raging in the black townships around Johannesburg.

Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini and President F.W. de Klerk, the Xhosa tribal homeland, shared the stage at a peace rally in Tokozo, one of the townships worst hit by factional fighting that has claimed almost 800 lives since early August.

The main combatants have been Zulus loyal to the conservative and Xhosa and other blacks who support the African National Congress. Both sides blame the other for the fighting.

Thousands of Zulus, wearing red headbands, brandishing axes and spears, and chanting war slogans, paraded through Tokozo to a soccer stadium to see the king. Almost all of the 15,000-strong crowd appeared to be Zulus.

"I have come to this place to put out the flames of violence," said Zwelithini.

His speech was followed by a similar plea from Mdamase.

However, both the king and the president are considered ceremonial figures rather than political leaders and it was unclear whether their calls for peace would slow the violence. Neither man holds an official post in either the ANC or Inkatha.

Police initially threatened to disarm the Zulus. But the Zulus refused to give up the weapons, which they consider implements of their traditional uniform necessity for such a tribal event.

After impromptu negotiations, the police gave in.

At the stadium, traditional chiefs dressed in animal skins mingled with youths wearing T-shirts that said "Inkatha," "Victory Through Peace" and "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

The rally came a day after police announced operation "Iron Fist," a crackdown in the townships that will include setting up roadblocks, sending in reinforcements and possibly imposing curfews.

Police also said they would mount machine guns on armoured patrol vehicles to curb the growing number of attacks on

police.

African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela predicted the measures would be ineffective and said they were announced only because two white policemen were killed in the past week.

The government last month sent police and army reinforcements into the townships and imposed emergency regulations, but it has not stopped the violence.

The ANC and Inkatha, the two largest black political movements, both oppose apartheid but differ over tactics and plans for a future South Africa.

Under the apartheid system of racial segregation, the 5 million whites dominate politics and the economy and the 30 million blacks have no voice in national affairs.

The African National Congress called the new police measures too little, too late.

The measures include curfews, roadblocks and the deployment of more police and soldiers in black townships plagued by almost five weeks of violence.

Maj. Gen. Gerrit Erasmus told a news conference Saturday.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela has repeatedly called for stronger government action, including use of the military, to quell the unrest.

After meeting Friday with President F.W. de Klerk, Mandela accused the government of instigating the fighting and warned of civil war if continued.

"Mr. Mandela wants an iron fist — we will give an iron fist," Erasmus said Saturday.

He said razor wire would be placed around migrant worker hostels and squatter camps, flash-points for much of the fighting.

Anyone entering or leaving the compounds would be searched for weapons, Erasmus said.

Police vehicles would have machine guns installed on top to protect officers from attacks by blacks with assault rifles, the official said. Police patrols already carry sub-machine guns in addition to shotguns.

Almost all the fighting occurs at night, when there are virtually no police patrols in the townships.

Soviet Union braces for crucial political and economic choices

MOSCOW (R) — As the Soviet Union squared up this weekend for crucial choices on its future, pressure mounted for the resignation of Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and a quick breakout to a market economy.

Tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of demonstrators led by radical politicians and economists were expected to gather under the Kremlin walls Sunday to urge Ryzhkov to step down and clear the way for a new social order.

The rally comes on the eve of a parliamentary debate on two rival plans, both commissioned by President Mikhail Gorbachev, to pull the country out of growing economic and political disorder.

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov told a Soviet radio reporter the demonstration would be disciplined and denied suggestions that marchers would also call for the resignation of Gorbachev, who has swung towards the radicals in recent weeks.

In a defiant television appearance Saturday night, the 60-year-old Ryzhkov said he would fight on for his "measured radical" project.

This aims to gradually replace the Soviet Union's command economy with a market system over a period of years.

The independent business newspaper Kommersant said Sunday the country's parliament, the supreme Soviet, was almost certain to approve a more radical plan compiled under direction of a senior Gorbachev adviser, Stanislav Shatalin.

The Shatalin plan, breaking taboos of seven decades of Communist administration, which one Moscow newspaper said Sunday had put 80 per cent of the population on the poverty line, opts for a prompt end to centralised economic control.

The Shatalin plan has already been approved for introduction from Oct. 1 in the Russian Federation by the free-wheeling parliament of that vast republic.

It allows for private business and property and a mass sell-off of state assets.

The Russian decision, expected to be followed by other key republics, and Gorbachev's own explicit backing of Shatalin's project

leave the Supreme Soviet with little choice when it gathers for several days of debate Monday.

Radicals, who feel the president himself has now moved close to their camp through a strained alliance with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, still fear Ryzhkov moderates could line up with Communist conservatives to stave off quick change.

Popov, whose city council helped organise Sunday's demonstration, told millions of television viewers Saturday that the government "neither has nor had a plan for a real market, nor does it wish to have one."

Only two weeks ago Gorbachev — who has appeared reluctant to see his prime minister fall — seemed confident that a "United Plan" incorporating both the Ryzhkov and the Shatalin variants could be achieved.

At the weekend two other Kremlin economic advisers, Abel Aganbegyan and Mikhail Petukhov, said there was no way the two plans could be combined and declared their support for the radical version.

Chaos halts voting at largest polling station in Gabon capital

LIBREVILLE (R) — Angry voters alleging foul play smashed ballot boxes and closed Libreville's biggest polling station in Gabon's first multi-party election Sunday.

Polling officials fled and crowds of young voters ransacked Libreville City Hall, where polling was taking place.

Scores of voters said the boxes were already stuffed with ballot papers for President Omar Bongo's Democratic Party of Gabon (PDG).

"I came here at 6 a.m. before voting started and when I went in the box was already full. Where did the ballots come from?"

A candidate for the largest opposition group, the Morena Bouchoules Party, said he saw a truck from the presidential guard bring people into the polling station before balloting started.

"I was here before voting started and I saw them. I wondered what they were doing there," said Faustin Edou Allogho.

Bands of youths scooped up fistfuls of ballot material and scattered them in torrents across city hall's lush lawns.

The hilltop city hall still bears the scars of an earlier outbreak of trouble Saturday, when frustrated would-be voters smashed

its windows during a desperate scramble to beat the deadline for collecting their voting cards.

Despite crippling organisational problems, excited electors streamed to the polls from dawn to choose the country's 120 legislators from 553 candidates.

The landmark election in Gabon, a former French colony which became independent in 1960, came in a year in which demands for greater democracy have swept much of Africa.

President Omar Bongo called the poll for Gabon's National Assembly as his answer to a campaign to end his 22-year rule through the Democratic Party of Gabon (PDG).

Aquino to appoint committees to study problems

MANILA (AP) — It was supposed to be a meeting to confront the mounting problems facing a fractious nation. But instead of unveiling dramatic plans, President Corason Aquino agreed to appoint study committees.

The lackluster outcome of Friday's "multi-sectoral consultative conference" underscored what critics say is an alarming sense of drift of the president and her staff from the public.

Critics and supporters alike believe Mrs. Aquino has become isolated from conditions in the country and is unaware of the dramatic deterioration in confidence among her 60 million countrymen.

During her four years in office, Mrs. Aquino has often responded to crisis by creating committees, whose reports are quickly forgotten.

"The holding of a so-called multi-sectoral meeting... was vintage Cory," said the Daily Globe newspaper. "And it was as expected, a resounding limited success."

The public had a rare opportunity to watch their president address the nation's problems when portions of the closed-door meeting were broadcast by government television Saturday.

Leaders of non-government organisations, the Roman Catholic Church, media, congress and other groups in society were summoned by Mrs. Aquino to discuss the nation's problems and map out solutions.

Those who attended the session cited problems ranging from lack of garbage collection in Manila to the looming economic crisis brought about by last July's earthquake. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and coup attempts by rebel soldiers.

They all called for dramatic action.

"It is very important that the government show signs, visible signs, that it is actually competent," said Patricia Licuanan, leader of a women's organisation.

Mrs. Licuanan reminded Mrs. Aquino that after a coup attempt in 1987, she issued tough orders to clean up Manila, three years later, mounds of uncollected garbage remain.

East German defence minister reportedly had links with Stasi

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Three East German government ministers are suspected by investigators of having cooperated with the former Communist secret police, an East Berlin newspaper has reported.

Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann, one of the accused, said the allegations were "totally made up," according to the East German News Agency (ADN).

Eppelmann, a Lutheran pastor, often sheltered dissidents during the Communist regime and played a leading role in the popular movement that brought down the Communist government last year.

Construction Minister Axel Viehweger and former Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl, were on a list of suspected

former agents for the secret police, or Stasi, the Berliner Zeitung said.

The list of names was compiled by a committee set up by parliament to conduct a probe into whether any lawmakers might have been Stasi agents.

Officials overseeing the dismantling of the Stasi have said that three government ministers and 68 deputies in the 400-member Volkskammer, or parliament, are suspected of having been secret police agents.

Their names had not been published until Saturday's report in the Berliner Zeitung, which did not say how it obtained the list.

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said the government will investigate the latest allegations. Eppelmann helped found a

small conservative party, the Democratic Awakening, and became minister of defence and disarmament in East Germany's first democratically elected government in April.

De Maiziere's government has been rocked by growing allegations that members of his cabinet and many legislators have past Stasi links.

The issue has overshadowed preparations for German unification on Oct. 3, when De Maiziere's government will turn over control of the economically troubled country to the West German government.

A four cabinet member, Environment Minister Karl-Hermann Steinberg, also has been named as a suspected former Stasi agent.

Indonesia frees former top general

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A former top general and onetime secretary-general of the Association of South East Asian Nations was released Sunday, three years after being imprisoned for subversion.

Hartono Rekso Dharsono, 64, was released after a seven-year prison term for good behaviour, officials said.

Dharsono was convicted in 1986 for co-signing a "white paper" that challenged the official account of a 1984 riot in a Jakarta waterfront slum in which officials said some 30 people died and 50 were injured. Independent sources said the death toll was much higher.

More than a thousand of his followers gathered in front of the prison in east Jakarta as he left at 10 a.m. (0300 GMT) with his family.

A group of students from Ban-

dung wearing T-shirts printed with the slogan "Free Siliwangi's tiger" waiting for his release beginning at midnight. Dharsono is a former commander of the West Java's military command of Siliwangi.

A Dharsono Left, another group of students from Jakarta handed him a bucket of flowers which said "congratulations to our new president."

Dharsono — a prominent member of an Indonesian dissident group called "Petition 50" — had also been charged with delivering an anti-government speech. The court that convicted him found that the speech had "stirred emotions" among Muslim youths leading to a series of bombings.

Petition 50, whose members included retired generals, party leaders, intellectuals, lawyers, doctors and students, caused a

sensation in Indonesia 10 years ago by submitting to Indonesia's parliament a statement saying the government under President Suharto is undemocratic.

Former Jakarta Governor Ali Sadikin, a leading figure in Petition 50 and Johannes Prince of the Indonesian Human Rights Institute were among those who greeted Dharsono Sunday.

Dharsono was given 40 months off for good behaviour.

Another prominent dissident, former Cabinet Minister Mohammad Sanusi is serving a 19-year sentence for the 1984 bombings of two banks and a shopping centre in Jakarta following Dharsono's speech. Two people died in the bombings of banks.

The 70-year-old Sanusi, who was minister for small-scale industries from 1966 to 1968, was also convicted of helping to plot the elimination of President Suharto.

20-month-old boy rescued from hole in U.S.

DENVER (AP) — A 20-month-old boy was removed safely from a narrow, 12-foot-deep (four-metre-deep) foundation hole in a remodelling project at his parents' home Sunday morning, ending a 14-hour ordeal.

Oxygen was pumped into the narrow shaft during the long overnight operation to rescue Kevin Davis, while teams from four fire departments dug a parallel rescue shaft and then tunnelled some five feet (1.5 metres) to the trapped child.

Kevin, son of Tom and Lisa Davis, was asleep when Denver fireman Joe Cipri finally broke

through and saw his face.

"When I went and grabbed his hand, he actually helped himself out of the hole," the smiling Cipri said shortly after the 6 a.m. rescue.

Fellow firefighter Kevin Duncan was in the rescue tunnel with Cipri and did the final, delicate digging to avoid a cave-in. He said Kevin "was in pretty good shape. He fell asleep. He was pretty much out of it, still in a daze."

Firemen strapped Kevin into a splint-like device that cradled the child's head, neck and upper body as they dug him out of the

narrow shaft.

Rescue workers hooted and yelled with joy as the boy emerged.

The little blonde boy with a dirt-smudge face was blinking and calm when placed on a gurney and wheeled to a waiting ambulance. A police motorcycle escort then led the ambulance to Denver General Hospital where the child was to be given a complete checkup.

The toddler fell into the 18-inch (45-centimetre) wide hole about 4 p.m. Saturday at an addition being built at his parents' home.

Guerrillas bomb main oil pipeline again in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Leftist guerrillas bombed two sections of Colombia's main oil pipeline Saturday, forcing the suspension of crude pumping, the state-run oil company Ecopetrol said.

Rebels of the National Liberation Army, the ELN, blasted the 414-kilometre-long Cano-Limon Pipeline in eastern Colombia, near the Venezuelan border, according to Ecopetrol.

The pro-Cuban guerrilla group had already bombed the pipeline four times this month.

The latest attacks caused an unspecified amount of oil to spill into nearby rivers and caused fires, Ecopetrol said.

ELN says it is protesting a recent 10 per cent price hike in gasoline prices.

The blasts have reduced this month's oil output, which reached a record high of 462,000 barrels a day in August.

Early last month President Cesar Gaviria announced Colombia was raising its crude production by around 15,000 barrels a day to help make up for shortfalls resulting from the Gulf crisis.

The Cano-Limon Pipeline transports 227,000 barrels per day. Colombia exports an estimated 200,000 barrels a day of crude. The rest goes to the domestic market.

Colombia has sufficient storage capacity on its Caribbean coast to continue exports despite the bombings.

Since 1986, the ELN has bombed the pipeline scores of times, causing an estimated \$520 million in losses.

The group, run by a defrocked priest, says it is trying to reduce the presence of foreign oil companies in Colombia.

The ELN is Colombia's only rebel group that has refused to consider peace talks with the government.

them extra legal protection, after its initial bail of no extradition got no takers, officials said Saturday.

Under a decree issued Friday, drug traffickers who turn themselves in will have their treatment watched by a human rights delegation from the attorney general's office. Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo said in an interview broadcast by radio.

"This measure seeks to provide plain guarantees to those who turn themselves in to judges to be tried in Colombia," said Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo in an interview broadcast over RCN radio.

President Cesar Gaviria announced 10 days ago that drug traffickers who surrender may be tried in Colombia rather than extradited to the United States. Gaviria said those who surrender also may have their sentences reduced by half. To be eligible for the lighter treatment, drug traffickers would have to confess all their crimes, cooperate in anti-drug investigations, and turn over weapons and other goods related to narcotics smuggling.

But Giraldo said that as of Saturday, no drug traffickers have taken Gaviria up on the new no-extradition policy.

The Medellin cartel, the world's largest cocaine ring, has been blamed for killing more than 550 people since August 1989, when the government began an anti-drug crackdown. The cartel has said it "prefers a tomb in Colombia to a jail cell in the United States."

Giraldo also said the government is drawing up measures to ensure that properties seized from drug traffickers remain in state hands.

The confiscated properties include luxury hotels, airplanes, homes, and cash, and are estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Pakistan complains of 'interference' by U.S. ambassador

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's caretaker government has complained of "unwarranted interference" in its internal affairs by U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley.

Islamabad took offence at a speech by Oakley to an Asia society meeting in Washington in which he criticised planned trials of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and members of her government.

The Foreign Ministry called in the U.S. charge d'affaires to tell him the government was "surprised at the ambassador's remarks which constituted interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan," the official AFP news agency reported.

It said the diplomat was "informed of the regret and disappointment of the government... over the unwarranted interference in Pakistan's internal political process."

Oakley told the meeting trials should also cover those in power in the three years before Bhutto became prime minister in November 1988.

"Otherwise the proceedings will inevitably be seen as partisan and further divide the country," a U.S. Information Service press release quoted Oakley as saying.

Many of Bhutto's political opponents now in the caretaker government were also members of the 1985-88 civilian administration under the late military ruler General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

"Any proceedings must also meet strict judicial standards of fairness and due process," Oakley said.

Islamabad's complaint against him was the most serious by a Pakistani government against a U.S. official in recent years, political observers said.

Magellan resumes Venus mapping after snags

PASADENA, California (AP) — The spacecraft Magellan, which mapped Venus with radar Saturday in the first attempt to make pictures of the planet's cloud-shrouded surface since engineers temporarily lost touch with it last month.

"Most people are sighing with relief," said Jim Scott, Magellan mission director at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "We're just happy to get into the position where we wanted to be."

Acting on computerised commands radioed 250 million kilometres from Earth, Magellan started bouncing radar off the planet during the morning and engineers received confirmation 13 minutes later, Scott said.

NASA's deep space network tracking station at Goldstone, California, started receiving data on the radar images, and computers will assemble it into pictures

that will be released to the public early this week, said Ed Sherry, technical assistant to Magellan's project manager.

"I'm just delighted. I'm happy as a clam," he said.

Magellan's \$744-million mission is designed to produce the most detailed pictures yet of Venus' surface, totally concealed by clouds, as well as a global map of the planet.

It was launched from the space shuttle Atlantis on May 4, 1989, and started orbiting Venus on Aug. 10, after a looping 1.5 billion kilometres voyage from Earth.

The spacecraft's radar makes pictures 10 times more detailed than those produced by Earth-based radar or radar on the Soviet Venera 15 and 16 spacecraft, which reached Venus in the mid-1980s.

Engineers lost radio contact with Magellan for 14 hours starting Aug. 16, then for 17½ hours starting Aug. 21. They still ha-

ven't learned the cause of the temporary blackouts, which they believe could happen again.

But they gave Magellan new computer instructions so it can recover quickly from future communications breakdowns.

The Aug. 16 blackout happened only hours after Magellan used its radar for its first pictures of Venus during two orbits around the planet. Only 1½ orbits worth of picture information was sent to Earth before contact was lost.

Half the remaining picture information was radioed to Earth Wednesday and the rest was sent back Saturday before mapping resumed, Scott said.

The first pictures showed Venus has large flows of solidified lava; big meteorite impact craters; volcanic cinder cones; large collapsed volcanic craters; and parallel mountain ridges and valleys.

Venus, the second planet from the sun, rotates once on its axis every 243 Earth days. Magellan circles Venus in a nearly polar orbit, so as Venus revolves beneath it the craft should be able to map 70 per cent to 90 per cent of the planet during its 243-day mission.

Venus is considered Earth's virtual twin in terms of size, mass, density and distance from the sun, although the planet's surface has been heated to 900 degrees Fahrenheit (482 Celsius) by a runaway "greenhouse effect."

Magellan's goal is to learn exactly what forces shape Venus, and whether its crust is broken into giant drifting plates like those that carry continents across the face of the Earth.

Many scientists believe Venusian crustal movements are dominated by "hot spots" — rising subterranean plumes of molten rock like those that created the Hawaiian Islands.

COLUMN

British writer wins Venice Festival with first film

VENICE, Italy (R) — British playwright Tom Stoppard won the Venice Film Festival's top Golden Lion Award for his first film, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* — a decision booted by Italian critics. Their chorus of disapproval drowned out cheers as the jury, headed by American writer Gore Vidal, announced the unexpected award for Stoppard's screen version of his successful 1966 stage fantasy about two minor characters in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. American Martin Scorsese's gangster movie *Goodfellas*, which stars Robert de Niro in a New York underworld of strappings and stab-bings, won the Silver Lion Award for Best Director. The jury awarded a special prize to New Zealand Director Jane Campion for *An Angel At My Table*. The award for Best Actor went to Oleg Borisov for the Bulgarian production *Edinstveniat Svidetel* (*The Only Witness*) and Best Actress was Gloria Munchaev for the Chilean *La Luna En El Espejo* (*The Moon in the Mirror*). Italian Actor Marcello Mastroianni and Hungarian Director Miklos Jancso were both given special awards as tributes to their careers.

Queen Elizabeth is worth a royal fortune

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth, the world's richest woman, has a royal fortune of \$6.7 billion (\$12.7 billion), according to a new study of Britain's 400 wealthiest people. The findings, published in the Sunday Times, showed that Britain's aristocrats and landowners have mostly kept their grip on the country's wealth. But Queen Elizabeth's fortune of art masterpieces and glittering jewels far outshines others. She has several hundred Leonardo Da Vinci drawings, dozens of Dutch and Italian masterpieces, antiques which require a 75-volume catalogue, a 330-volume stamp collection and jewels that include more than 20 tiaras. The queen also owns tens of thousands of acres of land and a portfolio of shares probably worth about \$2.5 billion (\$4.8 billion), the study said. Her eldest son, Prince Charles, as heir to the queen's billions, is placed second although his present worth is estimated at just £200 million (\$380 million). The Duke of Westminster, who owns extensive real estate in London, is ranked third with £4.2 billion (\$8 billion).

U.K. police arrest feline fugitive

LONDON (R) — A feline fugitive from the Gulf crisis flew from Kuwait straight into the arms of British police Saturday night. A U.S.-chartered Iraqi plane which brought 169 Westerners, mostly American women and children, to London from Kuwait by Baghdad also carried a cat, belonging to the only British woman on the flight. Police promptly took the cat into six months' custody under Britain's strict quarantine rules.

Mysterious Hindu symbol spotted in Oregon desert

GRANTS PASS, Oregon (AP) — A huge Hindu meditation symbol has been mysteriously plowed into a remote dry lake bed in the southeastern Oregon Desert, a spokesman for the Idaho Air National Guard said. The symbol, known as a Sriyantra, measures about a quarter-mile (.4 kilometres) across. It is precisely laid out on the Alford Desert along a training run often used by air guard pilots, said Capt. Michael Gollaher of the 14th Tactical Reconnaissance Group in Boise. "The word out at this time is that this is some type of man-made object," said Gollaher. "Most of the speculation is this is probably some sort of cult thing." The pictograph was first reported on Aug. 10 Lt.-Col. Bill Miller, who returned Aug. 24 and photographed it from his RF-4C Phantom jet, said Gollaher. He said it's unlikely the design was built before the middle of June because pilots would have spotted it. The design is a square with T-shaped appendages on all four sides. Inside are three concentric circles of lotus leaves. Inside those are nine graduated triangles, four pointing one way and five pointing the opposite, all overlapping. At the very centre is another circle. "It's a focusing device in meditation," said Gollaher. "This particular one symbolises the continuing of generations. It's a fertility type of thing, the continuation of the species and the Earth."